

THURSDAY 20 MARCH 1997

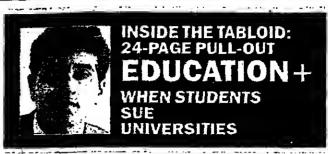
WEATHER: Bright start, overcast later

(IR45p) 40p



SHOCK AD THE TAB





# Boom! The iva Tory economy begins to boil

Diane Coyle and Anthony Bevins

The turbo-charged economy delivered a dramatic fall in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in February, taking the beadline jobless total below 1.75 million for the first time since November 1990. As John Major, Michael Hes-

eltine, and Kenneth Clarke rammed home their election message, that "Britain is booming", warning signs of higher inflation made an increase inioterest rates and mortgage? costs after the election a racing certainty in the eyes of the financial markets.

The latest economic indicators will have deepened the rift. between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Eddie George Governor of the Bank of Fingland, over interest rate policy. Minutes of their meeting last month showed that Mr Clarke turned down flat the Governor's advice to increase borrowing

costs straight away.

The politics of the booming economy have been repeatedly exposed by the Prime Minister and his top team this week. in a concerted effort to revive Conservative fortunes. Mr Clarke said on Thesday. Today, Britain is booming, without go-ing bust." Yesterday, Mr Heseltine told a Tory election press conference: Britain is booming Britain is doing extremely well

as the figures clearly reveal."... That was followed by Mr Major, who said during an election campaign visit to Newbury, in Berkshire: "Britain is booming, but not in an uniréasonable.

QUICKLY

The Dutch-born painter Willem de Kooning, a dominant figure

in the abstract expressionist art

Artist dies

£900 avg (for 8.5 millio

INSIDE

Election countdown, pages 6, 7, 8 Leading article, lette Diane Coyle, page 19

way." He then added: "We the end of 1994. must make sure that is not

thrown away."
But the Chancellor's run of luck with the figures could be coming to an end. A fresh batch published yesterday lent weight to the Bank of England's inflation warning, and Bank officials are concerned that the Government has not hit its in-

The biggest shock yesterday was news of a pick-up in earnings growth to 5 per cent in January from 4 per cent in October - the fastest acceleration for 20 years. No City expert expects Mr Clarke to bite the bullet after his next - and possibly final monthly meeting with Mr George on 10 April. David Mackie, an economist at investment bank J.P. Morgan. But some Opposition sources suspect Mr Clarke might act -

to be a saint to raise interest rates next month: He would have to wait for the history

books to give him credit," said

to underline his prudence, and show that be will not take risks with the economy. The financial markets firmly expect a rise in the cost of borrowing, which would be passed on to most mortgages, at the meeting straight after the election between the Governor and whoever is then Chancellor.

"Interest rates will go up on 7 May. The only question is by bow much, predicted Ciarán Barr, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

The Labour Party challenged yesterday's unemployment figures. the Labour leader, Tony Blair, said: "I don't believe most people think these statistics are a true reflection of the situation because many people are ineligible to claim unemployment benefit but they are

still basically unemployed."

Don Foster, the Liberal D mocrat spokesman, said: "We all want unemployment to fall - but not just because people have vanished from the unemployment figures to miraculously pop up somewhere else. Creating a black hole for people to fall into is not the same as cre-

ating jobs. Later, Mr Heseltine savagely attacked Labour spokesman Stephen Byers for saying that Britain was the youth unemployment capital of Europe. "Stephen Byers is lying," the

"Not even the Europeans believe him.

Although the Office for National Statistics said the introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance in October had distorted the figures to an unknown extent, it said the downward trend in unemploy-

Deputy Prime Minister said. ment had gathered speed. The claimant count is likely to fall below 1.5 million by the end of

this year. The headline unemployment rate declined to 6.2 per cent last month, taking the total below 1.75 million fur the first time since November 1990 - when Thatcher as Prime Minister.

Johlessness was down in all regions, especially the southeast. Other figures confirmed that the economy is buoyant. Unfilled vacancies in JobCentres are higher than at the peak of the last boom, with almost a quarter of a million new vacancies posted

risen too, with the strongest gains in the service industries. In addition, high street sales grew far more than expected last month. Earlier surveys had painted a downbeat picture, but official figures showed strong growth in sales volumes almost across the board.

PRIESTLEY

Business, page 20

# Major denies sleaze cover-up

#### Anthony Bevins and Christian Wolmar

emovement, has died, aged 92, lafter a long battle with Alz-The prorogation of Parliament heimer's disease. He was considered one of the greatest artists of his time – Park Lady sold for \$3.63m (£2.26m) in 1987, and in 1989 his masterpiece Interchange tomorrow should be revoked. giving the Commons power to publish of a report into the cashfor-questions affair, Tony Blair sold for \$20.6m . Page 2 and Paddy Ashdown told the Prime Minister last night.
However, John Major was expected to brush aside the lialy's refugee crisis

A state of emergency was declared in Italy yesterday as the spontry battled to cope with thousands of refugees arriving from Albania. Page 13 Women eschew sex

Pour out of ten single women are not having a sexual relation-ship according to the Office for National Statistics' General Household Survey, and the reason may be that the men simply atten t up to scratch. Page 3

Tube gun robbery Police in London released video surveillance pictures of two men suspected of robbing eight

women at gunpoint on an Un-desgripped train. Page 5 bleak beef outlook Sales prospects for British beef in Europe appeared bleak last night following agreement on new huropean Union rules forcing all beef sold after I Jan-

country of origin. Page S

vary 2000 to be marked with its



Hamilton: On the offensive

demand - in spite of his insis-tence, last October, that he wanted the issue to be speedily settled by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary "I've lived with these allegations for two and a half years, I've seen my name dragged through the mud. I want to set the Commissioner for Standards, whose report would be ready to show to MPs on Tuesday. record straight."

The report is thought to be Michael Heseltine, the highly critical of a number of Tory MPs, including Neil deputy Prime Minister, reacted angrily to Opposition accusa-tions that the Prime Minister Hamilton, who yesterday went on the offensive, saying that he also wanted an early publication of the report in order to clear. had expedited prorogation -freezing all parliamentary activity - in a calculated exercise to kill off Sir Gordon's sleaze rehis name. Mr Hamilton said:

6 If you are presented as a pariah by the media, people are bound to doubt 9

port: "Any suggestion that the Prime Minister or any other member of the Government has sought to influence the timing s a slander," be said at the Tories' election press confer-

And Mr Major himself told party workers in an election pep-talk at Conservative headquarters: "A smear a day won't keep the truth away."

trail in Newbury. Berkshire, he described Opposition claims that he had deliberately acted to prevent Sir Gordon's report coming out before polling day. as "utterly false".

But Gurdon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said no "technical reason" should be allowed in stand in the way of the report's publication before the election.

He said the Prime Minister could adjourn Parliament, putting it into recess, instead of usisting an prorogation - which would allow the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges to order publication of Sir Gordon's report when it delivered next week.

That would not alter the timing of the election, because there is still more than a fortnight to go before the dissolu-

tion on 8 April. Mr Hamilton, has consis-Earlier, on the campaign tently denied accepting cush for

Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, but a libel action against The Guardian, which had made these allegations, collapsed last October, Mr Hamilton, speaking on Sky News and brandishing his evidence to Sir Gordon. accepted that he had made "some errors of judgement in the past" but that he was "not guilty of any dishonesty, let

alooe corruption." Last night Mr Ashdown. leaders of the nationalist parties, and the entire Shadow Cabinet put down a Communs motion calling for the prorogation of Parliament to be postponed, in order that the report could be

published. Mr Ashdown said that if Mr Major did not act, "then there will be a widespread belief that the Prime Minister has sem Parliament away nineteen days early in order to hide some-

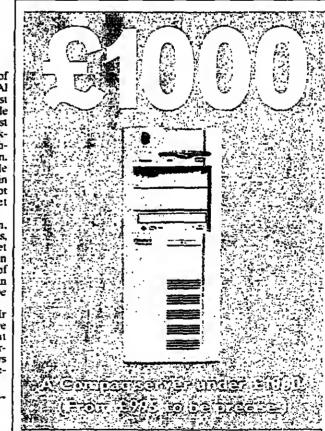
Italian would do under the cir-

heart failure. The televisioo

onic agony and thrust their mi-

crophones accusingly under the

noses of various embarrassed



# Italian comedy of errors over £100m tax bill

Salvatore Girgenti sounds a plausible sort of name for a southern Italian gangster. In-deed, Salvatore Gregorit is the gangster wanted for involvement in the contraband ciga-rette business in Naples. Unfortunately, though, Italian . law enforcement officials have quarters of the Sicilian capital,

ferent Salvatore Girgenti, with Thus it was that, last De-

cember, Salvatore Girgenti, an entirely innocent 65-year-old market porter from Palermo, was served with a tax demand name of a southern Italian, for 225,152,050,619 lire - the equivalent of some £100m. Mr Girgenti, who lives with his wife and two sons in a coun-

joke or a mistake, and chose to ignore it. But two days ago, the bailiffs came knocking at his notoriously bad at catching up door threatening the confiscation of his every last possession.

Realising the gravity of his plight, Mr Girgenti appealed to the police. The carabinieri realised the man before them had nothing to do with the Mr Girgenti caught with a truckful of cil house in one of the poorer contraband cigarettes outside Naples in 1983 and wanted for been pursuing an entirely dif- assumed the demand was a a string of offences since.

cumstances. He checked himwith tax dodgers, but ooce they cameras duly filmed him writhing around in rather histrihave someone in their clutches there is no escape. Yesterday, the bailiffs impounded Mr Girgeoti's furniture, with the exception of his marital bed, and told him they would sell everything at anctioo if he did not come up with the money within 90 days.

Palermo officials. He is still awaiting an official retraction. but his career oo Italy's late-Mr Girgenti promptly did night televisioo chat-shows what any harassed southern seems assured.

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THE BROADSHEET

Home News ...... 2-11 THE TABLOID 

Radio & TV ......23,24

#### **Opted-out primary schools** get cash to build nurseries

Opted-out primary schools are being offered millions of pounds to build new nursery units, allowing them to take advantage of income from the Government's controversial nursery voucher scheme. Revelations that the quango which funds grant-maintained schools will set aside £5m from its capital fund over two years for nursery building were yesterday condemned as "scandalous" by Margaret Hodge. Labour's spokeswoman on nursery education.

She said the Government was permitting "sweeteners" to be made available to those schools which had opted out of local authority control but not to private and voluntary-sector playgroups. The move by the Funding Agency for Schools will add to concerns that John Major's flagship nursery voucher scheme is not working as ministers' hoped.

A report by the cross-party Education and Employment Select Committee, leaked last week to The Independent and published officially vesterday, found no evidence that the scheme was fulfilling its key aim of extending parental choice of nursery provision. It said some private and voluntary playgroups risked closure as schools anxious to safeguard pupil numbers and funding recruited four-year-olds in reception classes.

Lucy Ward

#### Carey's 'wearing' role

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has admitted he that finds his job "wearing" and that he expects to retire within five years. "There are times when I get very tired," said the 60-year-old Archbishop, said in a TV documentary. "I feel fine now, but there is no doubt about it that in five years time I would be ready to hand over to somebody else". The Meridian programme, Passions, to be screened on Sunday, accompanies Dr Carey on a trip to South Africa to mark the retirement of Bishop Desmond Tutu. Clare Gamer

#### Robinson gets backing for UN post



The Irish cabinet yesterday confirmed that it will propose President Mary Robinson (left) for the vacant post of United

Human Rights. Mrs Robinson said last week that she would not seek re-election when her seven-year term as Irish President ends at the end of this year, She formally announced her candidacy during a visit to the UN War Crimes Tribunal in the

Hague this week. On Monday the Taoiseach, John Bruton, canvassed American support for her during St Patrick's Day meetings in Washington with President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore.

#### Delays as train services cancelled

Thousands of passengers have been subjected to delays after a second private rail company was forced to cancel services when it cut 89 drivers from its payroll. MTL, the bus company which now runs Regional Railways North East, a sprawling service which serves major cities such as Birmingham. Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester, made the drivers redundant after taking the firm over earlier this month and then was forced to cancel 79 trains. The company defended its actions saving it had inherited the restructuring from British Rail. Peter Coombes, its chairman, said that for the "franchise area overall the rate of cancellations has increased very marginally". Randeep Ramesh

#### Kilroy-Silk wins libel damages

The broadcaster, Robert Kilrov-Silk, vesterday received "substantial damages", costs, and a public apology in the High Court from the Tory MP Warren Hawksley. The MP for Halesowen and Stoutbodge, had accused the former Labour MP, in a press release, of political bias in his television chat show Kilroy.

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Tado Andao: The creative rebel has become a thoughtful and cultured netist (Photograph: FSP)

# Le Corbusier's successor turns concrete into gold

adao Ando, a former boxer and self-taught ar-chitect, is the recipient of the 1997 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. The award, which is in the gift of the Queen, is organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects and although it carries no cash prize, tike the rival Pritzker (USA), Carlsberg (Denmark) and Praemium Imperiale (Japan) awards, it is widely considered the most prestigious of its kind.

Ando will be unfamiliar to the British public, yet he s without doubt one of the very finest architects working in the world today, combining raw power and great emotional and spatial sublety. He seems incapable, to date, of formulaic commercial hackery: each new building is an exploration of an architecture that is unmistakably his own.

Ando has not built in Britain. He was shortlisted to transform London's redundant Bankside Power Station Into the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art, but the token drawings he presented to the judges of the Tate's design competition suggested that his heart was not In the project. He did not even visit the site. The nearest Ando building is the Meditation Space for Unesco (Paris, 1995), followed by a Seminar block for Vitra, the Swiss furniture company (Basel, 1993) and the Bennetton Research Centre (Treviso, 1991-2).

Although a controversial figure at home, where his pugnacious Individualism is viewed with some suspicion. Ando was called on to represent his native Japan at the 1992 Seville Expo where he designed the Japan-ese Pavillon, a memorable fusion of traditional and modem design and construction.

His finest buildings, all in Japan, include the litary of religious buildings he created on Mount Bolto, Kobe (1985-86), the Chapel on the Water, Tomarnu (1985-9) and the Church of the Light, Osaka (1987-9). "In a world dominated by consumerism", reads the Gold Medal citation, "Ando seeks solace through his ar-Medal chation, "Ando seeks solace through his anchitecture in the rediscovery of new relationships between space and light, modern finishes, man and nature. He is called a minimalist, although there is nothing simple about the man. Ando has emerged as something of a creative rebet in his own country although clearly respected as a thoughtful and cultured attist. To the rest of the world he is an architectural hero."

Born in Osaka in 1941, Ando boured some of the great architectural studies of the Solates in Europe and the List and troubactural studies of the Solates in Europe and the List and troubactural studies at the beautiful, elements.

the US and looked closely at the beautiful, elemental architecture of North Africa, much as the self-taught Le Corbusier had done, half a century earlier, before setting up practice in his home town in 1969. He is, if any architect is, the natural successor to Le Corbusier, the most inventive and probably this century's great-

Not surprisingly, Ando has won the other big international prizes - Carisberg (1992), Pritzker (1995) and Praemium Imperiale (1996). To date he has no serious detractors, but equally he has been tempted to design just one office block, and that for a singular-client, establishing instead a career that enables him: to take on only those buildings he really wants to de-sign. Ando's has always been the architecture of light and grace; and now it's gold. Jonathan Glancey.

#### oriefing

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### Massive backlog of cases dogs Child Support Agency

The controversial Child Support Agency has substantially improved its performance since its "difficult and unhappy birth", but still has a big backlog of cases to deal with, MPs said yesterday. The role of the CSA is to take lone parents, predominantly mathems of benefit has a big backlog of cases. mothers, off benefit by making absent parents pay maintenance for their offspring. But a report by the Social Security Select Committee showed that only about one third of lone parents on Income Support and Family Credit had received a CSA assessment. Even this commendate "flettered" the appearance of the parents of the property of the parents of th

assessment. Even this somewhet "flattered" the agency.

The total of lone parents on benefit - over 1.46 million in May 1996 - was e "snapshot" total, whereas the figure for the CSA caseload at the same point - 485,000 - was a "cumulative" total,

including cases where absent parents were themselves getting benefit and were therefore readily accessible to the CSA.

But by the end of December last year, said the MPs, the number of maintenance applications on hand was 441,784, "which includes a considerable backlog compared to an estimated 200,000-250,000 applications on hand that the Assent results are the horse when the considerable backlog compared to an estimated 200,000-250,000 applications on hand that the Assent results are the horse when the considerable to the considerable backlog compared to an estimated 200,000-250,000 applications on hand that the Assent results are the backlog to the considerable to the consid applications on hand that the Agency would expect to have when at

#### WHITEHALL

#### Complaints at all-time high

The number of complaints against Government bodies has hit a record, Michael Buckley, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, said yesterday. Of the 1,920 complaints referred to his office last year by MPs, half related to the Department Of Social Security.

Mr Buckley, who was uppointed in January on the retirement of Sir William Reid, said the level of complaints was such that he could only investigate those where there was a realistic chance of obtaining redress or highlighting defects in a department's

"In a very busy office we need to devote our energies where they will do most good. In 1989, the year before Sir William took office, 677 complaints were received," Mr Buckley said. "The unrelenting growth in workload over the last seven years has brought problems in the shape of excessive backlogs and an increase in case throughput times."

#### FINANCE

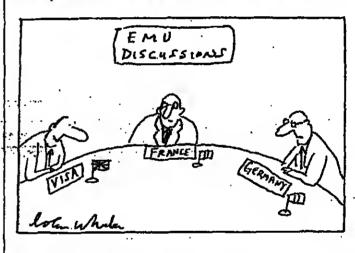
#### Plastic revolution gains momentum

The UK is leading the move away from cash and cheques in favour The UK is leading the move away from cash and cheques in favour of paying with plastic, credit card giant Visa said yesterday. Britons used 40 million Visa cards to spend £76bn last year - up 25 per cent on 1995. Visa said the UK was its largest European market and now accounted for two-fifths of all its cards in Europe.

The figures bode well for Visa's plans to begin trials of e hi-tech "electronic purse" in Leeds in October. Visa Cash, e plastic card with an electronic chip which "stores" money, will allow people to buy low-cost items such as soft drinks and magazines without the

buy low-cost items such as soft drinks and magazines without the need for carrying change. Visa has got several banks involved and hopes to issue cards to 70,000 people.

The plan is to extend the scheme to the rest of the country later.



#### SOCIETY

#### Poverty taking toll on young

Young people who live in poverty are at four times the risk of dving by the age of 20 than those from more affluent families, according to n new report. Children and young people have now overtaken

pensioners as the largest age group in poverty and their health is suffering as a result, warms the Child Poverty Action Group. The data, prepared by Bristol University, shows that main poverty-related health problems are accidents, respiratory problems, depression, schizophrenia, dietary deficiencies, substance nbuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

Snicide rates in young men have doubled since 1975 and are almost three times higher for young poor people than for those

from better-off backgrounds.

Poor housing conditions, stress and isolation from e lack of access to opportunities such as training and employment are aspects of poverty which may increase the risk of health problems.

Not to be Ignored: Young People, Poverty and Health, £8.95, CPAG
Ltd, I-5 Bath Street, London ECIV 9PY Glenda Cooper

#### HEALTH

#### Treatment to cut TB deaths

At least 10 million deaths from tuberculosis will be prevented over the next 10 years by the use of a new strategy known as Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS), a report from the World Health Organisation said yesterday. The DOTS campaign is causing

the global TB epidemic to level off for the first time in decades.

The unique features of DOTS is its use of 'patient observers' to watch TB patients swallow each does of medicines. This helps overcome one of the most difficult problems that has hindered TB control efforts to date: that patients tend to take enough of their medicines to feel better, but fail to finish the course of treatment,

so that they remain capable of infecting others.

With DOTS, trained health workers, and sometimes volunteers, such as shopkeepers, teachers and former patients, are used in the community to observe patients take a powerful combination of four medicines over eight months.

#### SCIENCE

#### First film of molecular motor

A molecule that functions like a rotary motor, one of nature's most amazing engineering feats, has been filmed in action for the first time by scientists. The motor, which measures just 10 millionths of

a millimetre across, is part of the complex mechanism of respiration by which cells release energy from food.
It works like the rotor arm in a car's distributor. A central spindle turns within a barrel and makes contact with the "points" three chemical activation sites which are triggered in turn, in o similar way to spark plugs in a car.
For some time scientists have suspected that the "motor", a

component of an enzyme that acts as a catalyst in the process of respiration, functions in this way. Now scientists from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Yokohama, Japan, have proved conclusively that this happens – by filming the motor spinning. The team, led by Masasuke Yoshida, attached a tiny fluorescent filament to the "rotor arm", allowing its movement



**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

#### Alec Guinness overwhelmed by force of publicity

May the Force be with you - but I won't. This is the message from Sir Alec Guinness to the organisers of tonight's royal premiere for the re-release of Star Wars. The veteran actor, who is reported to have made millions from the film, is refusing to join the Prince of Wales at Lon-

don's Odeon in Leicester Square. The

hype surrounding the film's 20th anniversary celebrations, he said, has become too much. Asked for an interview, Sir Alec responded in writing: "I am afraid the answer is no. The hype over the reissue of Star Wars and the constant demands for interviews from the press, magazines, ra-

dio and TV have got me down and my only refuge is to refuse everything." As Obi-Wan Kenobi (right), the wise Jedi knight, Sir Alec. captured the imagination of a generation and his character seems destined to live forever. In 1977 he agreed to act in the film for 2 per cent of the profits rather than e straight fee, a trend-setting deed copied by many Holly-wood stars. His gamble cetalnly paid off. Star Wars and its two sequels, The Em-

Sir Alec could make more than £1m from the re-released and digitally remas-

pire Strikes Beck and Return of the Jedi,

have earned £1.33bn worldwide.



tered Star Wers, which has taken more than £60m in the US since 31 January. A spokesman for 20th Century Fox said of the 82-year-old actor, who lives e reclusive life with hie wife, Merula, in Hampshire,: "George Lucas [the director] invited him but we received a note saying he had a previous engagement. It is e

shame." Only reluctantly did Sir Alec attend tha unveiling of a plaque in London last year to mark his contribution to film. At the time he said: "The idea makes me feel rather fraudulent, my contribution to film has always been negligible, my first love has always been the theatre."

Star Wars opens across Britain on

### Abstract genius de Kooning dies

The Dutch-born painter Willem de Kooning, e dominant figure in the abstract ex-pressionist art movement, has died, aged 92, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was considered one of the greatest artists of his time.

De Kooning, who dled yesterday moming, once said of painting that it was: "a way of living today, a style of living so to speak ... that is where the form of it lies." He influenced many artists of the New York School that came to prominence after World War II, but his own work was not limited to one style. His canvases ranged from the black and white Night Square (1950-51) to the colourful Woman series to early 1980s abstracts that were overwhelmingly done in primary colours.

De Kooning continued to paint well

into his 80s, despite being diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease, which led a court to declare that he was incapable of looking after his affairs and to appoint conservators for his assets

Recognition came from buyers as well as critics. His 1944 Pink Lady brought \$3.63m in an auction at Sotheby's in 1987. Two years later his 1955 master piece Interchange sold for a stunning \$20.6m at the same house. Vintage works consistently sold for over \$1m.

Those financial heights were far removed from his lower-middle-class Dutch background. Bom in Rotterdam on 24 April, 1904, he was the son of a wine and beer distributor. His mother was e bar-

# هكذا من الأصل

# The world of e-mail enters the classroom

Education Editor "

All children over the age of nine should have their own e-mail identity, according to a report suggests. Only a small comput-from an independent inquiry et and a handful of staff would published today.

The inquiry, set up by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, to provide independent evidence about information technology in schools says it could be achieved cheaply once the problem of access to children's names and addresses had been solved.

by the idea of communicating catch on very quickly." with experts through information technology and by easy ac-

Dennis Stevenson, chairman of GPA plc and chairman elect of the Pearson group, who chaired the inquiry, said: "It's blisteringly simple but it's a very good idea. You could have a system by which heads who wished their children to have e-

The report describes the state of IT in schools as "primcess to the Internet, the report itive": nearly 50 per cent of suggests. Only a small comput- desktop computers in primary · schools are more than five years old and in some secondary schools and nearly a third of primaries there is only one computer for a whole class.

But the answer is not to invest in expensive hardware. Instead, teachers should receive IT training and be given tax breaks to buy their own home com- than hundreds of millions.

that the best way to improve IT skills is by practice, Around 60 per cent of teachers are thought to be in need of IT training.

Mr Stevenson said: "I would rather buy 20,000 teachers computers than five million children. It would be grossly irresponsible to give every child a laptop when there are neither the teachers nor the software to support them."

He and his team believe that the total would be tens rather

The report says the Government should make use of the In-British Telecom and the cable ternet affordable and predictable for school by negotiating an agreement with the telecommunications industry.

حكدًا من الأعلى

There should be an educational website which would allow teachers and pupils to swap software, say, about the best way to teach King Lear. A report from the consultants. Mc Kinsey & Co suggests 22 per cent of homes already have computers and that figure will rise to 44 per cent by 2000.

companies to link all schools up to the Internet free. It is also promising to use lottery money to train teachers in IT from the year 2000.

Mr Blair has also proposed a national grid for learning which would franchise educational publishers to provide national curriculum material on an Internet site.

However, the inquiry team says, the government will need to make sure all children have everyone had access to books through public libraries.

The report says schools should open for computer use outside hours and there should he new cyber centres and computer hanks for the public in libraries. There should also be a departmental minister with the remit of improving information and communications technology in schools.

The report argues: "It is sometimes said that the UK is difficult to reverse."

past they tried to ensure that computers in schools internationally. It is doubtful whether this is true. Even it if were, this is analagous to suggesting that a runner is ahead after 500m of a marathon."

> And it concludes: "If the government does not take steps to intensify the use of information and communications technology a generation of children will have been put at an enormous disadvantage with consequences for the UK that will be

# No sex and the single girl: Are we becoming a nation of Bridget Joneses?

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Why are men like lavatories? Because they are either vacant or engaged. Or so runs the singie woman's favourite joke. Men's egos may take a fur-

ther bashing from the latest staustics from the Office For National Statistics, the Gener-es they had 20 years ago. al Household Survey says four in 10 single women are not have counselling are saying that they ing a sexual relationship, are delaying sexual relationing a sexual relationship. Bridget Jones, The Indepen-

such a large percentage of choices women are not having sex because men simply aren't up to

Used to choosing their own souse, their own career, the way they dress and the way they spend their time, women are now applying the same sort of . control in their private life. And they expect the same high.

standards to apply.

Mary Balfour, director of Drawing Down the Moon, described as the introduction agency for thinking people (apparently more of her clients read The Independent than any other paper) says significantly more women than men contact her agency, in an attempt to find the perfect partner who will fit in

2.574

with their lifestyle.

The qualities they are most commonly looking for (besides the inevitable sense of humour) are similar levels of ambition,

success and status. "Sometimes they can be a bit unrealistic and we have to make them realise that every rela-tionship is a compromise," she said. "But it is difficult because they have choice and control in every other area of their lives houses, jobs, the responsibilities they take on. They may be in rights, a kind of new reasoning particularly young women, but tionery Office, £30.

very senior positions and they feel that they can apply the same criteria to their private lives." Julia Cole, counsellor and

spokesperson for Relate agrees.
"You no longer hear the phrase on the shelf after 30," she said. "I think there are definitely more choices for women aged 16 to 49 as opposed to the choic-

Young women who come for Bridget Jones, The Indepension Strips, saying I don't have to fit den's single-girl diarist, may be into the stereotypes that my moan her eternal quest to find mother and my grandmother. the perfect man and Mr. Dancy did. I can have a career and fam-lookalike. Bur, she is in good lib, or a career without a fami-company. Experts believe the by, I can be with a partner or new figures reflect the fact that not. They have a multiplicity of

And after three decades of easily available contraception, the urgency of having sex just because you can has also worn off, believes agony aunt Virginia

I think if we were looking in

tled down. I think there has

been a puritanical reaction

to what went on in those

say no when contraception was

freely available ... Before, the

old reason was that you could

say I don't want to get preg-

nant'. But now with more em-

Then it was jolly difficult to-



Lonely heart? Deting agencies say clients are more choosy, but sometimes have to be told that relationships are a compromise

much more female solidarity

"I think if we were looking in myth, according to the survey. the 1960s and 1970s the figures. The 16-19-year-old age group would be completely differ were the least likely to have a ent." she said. "We were all sexual partner - with fewer

6 A large percentage of women

are not having sex simply because

men are not up to scratch >

completely preoccupied by than half in a relationship, sex and I think things have set-

. The image of teenagers as sex-obsessed Lolitas is also a

But Dr Christine Griffin, se-

ogy at Birmingham University, puts this down less to messages

about the dangers of HIV/Aids

and more to some vestigial at-

titudes about the sexual double

"I think traditional attitudes

has come in. I think there is on the ground I don't think they have. There may be an image in the media that young women are more sexually knowing but there is still anxiety amongst them that they won't get a bad name for themselves.

But what can men do with the abstainers? "I think it leaves men in a difficult situation," said Ms Coles. "Men are having to make choices about their careers becuase of family life. There is now an expectation that they will spend some of their time looking after the children.

"Roles have changed so dramatically since the war that there is a lot of stress building relationships. It's been like reinventing the wheel."

Of course, there is one more question to be answered in the battle of the sexes. Sadly the annual General Household Survey does not collect data on how many men claim to be having

But then, we all know what do still exist," said Dr Grif-they'd say anyway.

fin. There is an assumption Living in Britain: Results from from research that a lot of peo-the 1995 General Household

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# Carry on up the Amazon as Brazil offers to run boat race

phasis on 'no means no' and from research that a lot of peo-more emphasis on women's ple have changed their attitudes.

Stock up on the Pimm's and watch out for those piranhas. Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race crews may swap the gentle scenery of Purney and Mortlake for the endangered delights of the tropical rainforest if they agree to a race down the Amazon later this year. As they prepare for the

143rd running of their annual confrontation on 29 March. the crews have received an invitation from the government of Amazonas - Brazil's largest state - to take on a team from the Brazilian Rowing Federation.

Oxford's director of rowing. Steve Royle, was understand ably enthusiastic. "We are just discussing it at the moment following an invitation from Brasilia, but both ourselves and Cambridge have already said we are interested," he said:

our expenses, the boats and the confirmed until after Oxford's turn down this invitation. ferent - just as long as we stay May.



in the boat." John Snagge. whose mellifluous commentaries graced the event for more than half a century, would be

turning in his grave.
The proposed date for the historic encounter is 21 Sep-They have agreed to pay all tember, although it will not be

him a list of the invitations we have received and we ask him Which one would you like to go to?" " said Royle.

sultation but he would have a big say." It might be difficult to

When he comes in we give

"It's then a matter of con-Royle was not absolutely never come back. Now that sure why the approach has been would be a result.

was part of it.
"Oxford and Cambridge boat clubs are ambassadors to the rowing world, just like Man-

made, but thought that the world-wide television coverage

chester United is to football," he said. "If you ask anybody in the Amazon about football they would probably mention Manchester United. So if you ask them about rowing. Oxford and Cambridge would prohably come up. "But there's still only one

Boat Race." Royle said. "This would purely be a 'friendly' fixture against the Brazilian Rowing Federation, with Oxford and Cambridge taking part." The Hoorays and Sloanies

could arrange a trip across the Atlantic - perhaps the explorer and Amazon veteran Redmond O'Hanion could be persuaded to act as tour guide - and forsake their Pimm's for ayahuasca, the indigenous psychotropic drug that induces spiritual ecstasy. Maybe they'll

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The final photograph is of the two men waiting on the platform for the

train on which they are believed to have robbed eight women at gunpoint

Surveillance cameras

ُ حكدًا من الأصل

# Gun law comes to London Tube

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

130

Police fear that two masked robbers who held up eight women at gun point on the London Underground could strike

The gunnen only stole about The suspects got on the emp-450 m the late-night attack by southbound train with the vic-Video pictures of the assailants. were released vesterday and a £1,000 reward for the their cap- coloured woollen balaclavas ture has been offered.

The move is seen as a frightening escalation in the level of violence on the railway system. Attacks involving firearms on the Underground, however, remain extremely rare. The number of robberies on the Tube has gone down by 3 per cent to 560 in the last year.

The robbery happened on Saturday night in north-west London but details were only released yesterday because the police have had problems in interviewing the victims - six of whom are from Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda, one from Singapore and the eighth has yet targeted specifically.

late shifts doing casual work.
The robbers were first seen

porean women on the Bakerioo Line train at Harrow and

Wealdstone.
The two men, who were photographed by Underground surveillance cameras, were joined on the platform by two teenage girls who then left the station.

tim. As the train left the station the two men pulled down dark and drew handguns. They took about £4 in loose change before the woman was allowed to leave at the next station..

Further along the line at Stonebridge Park station, seven women boarded the train. The men robbed them of about £50 before fleeing at Willesden

Junction:
Detective Inspector Alan
Pacey, of the British Transport
Police, who is heading the investigation into the robberies, said: "We are concerned there could be repeated incidents although there is nothing to suggest that the Underground was

to be contacted. "If is extremely rare for guns
The women all in their 20s. to be used on the Underand 30s, had been working on ground."



Soft target: Passengers travelling alone in a compartment make easier victims for robbers or other attackers

The tube train involved in the latest robbery did not have a guard and the driver was uoaware of the attacks.

The use of firearms is rare but The rail unions have argued. gangs-of youths have used a hat cuts in staff have made the technique called "steaming" to

speed snatching bags and wal-

One of the most serious iocidents involving a firearm on the London Underground happened in July 1995 when a gunat about 11pm by the Singa- Underground system less safe. move through carriages at great an argument at Stockwell sta- Owners of the newly priva- scribed as black and aged 17-20. on 0171 380 1400.

tion in south London. The gun was fired in the victim's face but at the last minute he lifted his arm to defend

flected by the metal baogle he

himself and the bullet was de-

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid tised railways have have also recognised that security needs

They were wearing dark puffa-style jackets and dark jeans to be improved and have begun and were about 5ft 8ins to 5ft hiring security guards to protect lüins tail.

Anyone who has information against pickpockets and robbers. about the incident should con-The gunmen involved in the rident on Saturday were de-

#### 'Crash' première venue in doubt

Arts News Editor

Crash, the controversial film about a group of people sexu-ally aroused by car accidents, may be denied a central London premiere despite its 18 certifi-cate granted by the British Board of Film Classification, A date for the première will not he set uotil a release date for Britain has been named by the

distributors. Columbia TriStar. Although the BBFC said this week that the film, based on the novel by JG Ballard, could be shown uncut to adult audiences. Westminster Council has not withdrawn the han it imposed last year. If it refuses to do so, the only possible venue in central London for a premiere will be the Institute of Contemporary Arts which is outside the council's licensing jurisdiction. Otherwise, the venue could be one of the "art house" cinemas just outside the city centre.

A spokeswoman for Columbia TriStar said yesterday: What we hope is that in the light of the BBFC decision Westminster Council will review their position."

The film directed by David Cronenberg, who defends it as a metaphor", will open uncut in the United States tomorrow. But in Britain there is still opposition, with Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, renewing her call that it should not be shown.

But although Crash, starring Oscar winner Holly Hunter, Rosanna Arquette and James Spader, demands a stroog stomach, its sterile atmosphere and stress on the unsatisfactory nature of the characters' relation-

ships acts against any glamorising of its subject matter. A spokesman for Westminster Council said vesterday: "In the light of the BBFC ruling Westminster's licensing subcommittee will now review its earlier decision made last November.

The BBFC's director. James Ferman, ruled the "unusual and disturbing film" was neither illegal nor harmful. It said it was shown to a top lawyer, forcosic psychologist and audience of tact British Transport Police disabled people before an 18 i certificate was granted.

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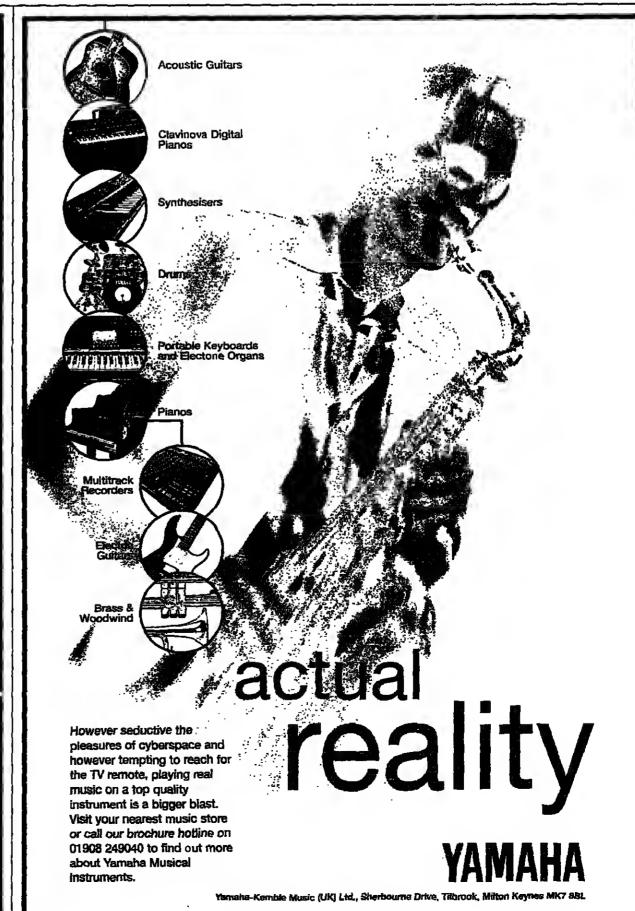
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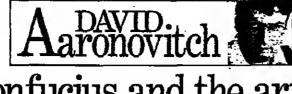
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through his helpful and wise thoughts. How alike then (I thought, as I took my seat in the little theatre) are the ancient Oriental sage and the latter day Hezza. Both sit above the sweat and smell of contingent battles, dispensing useful thought from on high in

Brian Mawhinney, John Major, Emperor Wu and Fan Chi may feel a terrible sense of urgency, of



#### Confucius and the art of the press conference

engagement in the struggie, but Hezza and Confucius do not. There to speak about falling unemployment, Mr Heseltine ad-libbed desultorily through the Ten Great Faults of Labour, managing to mention eight, and then stopping when he felt like it.

As undistracted by what he was saying as he was himself, I took the opportunity in examine him closely. His physiognomy has gone through a strange second adolescence: the nose, the chin, the jaw, the ridge of the forehead, have all asserted their

dominance over the mere flesh of the face. Now a man of pure feature, Hezza looks like his own cartoons.

The truest moment came when he was taxed with the desertion of the Tory cause by its erstwhile allies on the Sun. There was a silence, then: "I have thought about this issue." Then a long pause. "And I may return to it". In the Confucius review it said that: "The brevity of many sections of the Analects, when combined with concision, make translation a formidable task". Very true.

Perhaps too, as he and Mr Mawhinney were questioned about the Downey sleaze report (not many journalists seemed that fussed about unemployment), he was reflecting on Confucius's rebuff to a pious administrator that, "among my people a

father covers up for his son, a son covers up for his father - and there is integrity in what they do".

Two hours later, Waiter Sweeney doomed Conservative member for the Vale of Glamorgan was peering uryopically at his notes. A large man, whose electoral base is as narrow as his physical base is broad, Mr Sweeney has the smallest majority in the House of Commons. Nineteen votes separate continued life at Westminster from a return to provincial soliciting, and Mr.

return to provincial solicang, and bar.
Sweeney knows that just 10 disgruntled electors could propel some snakehipped New Labourite into the House.
So here he was in front of a whip, a captive Welsh Office minister, five cub scouts and Tam Dalyell's abandoned green cushion, to speak on "Education in the Vale of Glamorgan". And he

looked beaused. Not that there is anything new in this condition. Just as there are 30 words for snow in the Inuit language, so there are many shades of Sweeney bemusement - ranging from the merely abstracted, through very puzzled, to the totally out of it. In the past, he has looked equally bemused when rebelling over Europe or supporting a Bill to legalise the shooting of burglars by householders. It may be that he unerringly occupies these positions simply to keep himself beautsed. Or it may be that he wonders how -

in an inversion of the usual political logic - it comes about that he and unemployment look set to fall together. Easy, Walter - Confucius he say (Analects 12/7): "Without the trust of the people, no government may stand". Ask Hezza. He knows.

# **Europe looks** ahead to a Blair summit

Sarah Helm Brussels

European leaders are to invite Tony Blair to a mini-summit within days of a Labour victory in order to make urgent progress in negotiations on the new Amsterdam Treaty.

The European initiative no breathing-space before he is forced to decide where his government stands on such controversial issues as reduction of the British veto.

The Dutch government, which holds the EU presidency, is anxious that if negotiations are not swiftly begun with Mr Blair, the treaty may not be ready for signature at the Amsterdam summit on 16 June.

Among those at the summit, to be hosted by Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, would be heads of government and state, including Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President. Dates from 2 May on are being canvassed, sources in the Hague said yesterday.

Mr Blair is understood to have let the Dutch know he favours an informal "get-to-know-you" gathering rather than a full-hlown summit.

By attending a meeting so soon after election, the Labou leader knows he may run the risk of being ambushed into signing away powers before he is fully hriefed on the complex details of the Amsterdam

However, Dutch sources say they are not interested in meeting just for a chat. The presidency intends to schedule a "serious meeting" of heads of

government "as soon as possi-ble" after the election. "We don't have much time. With only six weeks, serious negotiations have to start very soon," said a Dutch official.

Other governments are also backing plans for a May meeting. "We would support any initiative that would accelerate the means that, if elected, the negotiations. Time is short," Labour leader will have almost said a senior Elysée source in Paris. If a deal cannot be done at Amsterdam, plans have been laid for the signature to be de-layed until Luxembourg assumes the presidency.

In a move calculated to ease the transition in the complex and far-reaching negotiations, Mr Blair intends to keep Sir Stephen Wall, the present British permanent representa-tive to Brussels, as his chief negotiator in the Amsterdam Treaty talks. There had been speculation that Sir Stephen would face the axe under Labour. He was an aide to Baroness Thatcher and fought Jacques Chirac, the French in the front line of the present government's "beef war", and thus might be viewed to have been tainted by association with

Tory European policy. However, he has been assured his job is secure. An ac-complished diplomat, his intimate knowledge of the negotiations and his cool head uninvaluable to Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, should they find themselves suddenly catapulted into the Amsterdam hot-

As the British election campaign gets under way, European leaders are being careful not to provide fuel for Euro-sceptics.

are cautiously optimistic that a Labour government would show greater willingness to make concessions on Europe

than the present government. In particular, other Europeans want Labour to agree to greater qualified majority voting and a "flexibility" clause which could allow a hard core of countries to pool powers at faster speeds than others.

British concessions will also be sought on greater powersharing in areas of race and immigration, and foreign policy. Labour has already said it will sign up to the Social Chapter.

However, most European diplomats accept that, while Mr Blair's tone on the EU is more positive, he is likely to refuse any radical new powersharing proposals, and is certain to oppose plans for ending border controls and building a multi-speed Europe with as much vehemence as the Con-

As preparations for Amsterdam continue apace, the Dutch presidency is to present draft texts at a meeting in Rome next week, offering new proposals on majority voting, powers for the European parliament and allocation of commissioners.

Conservative members of warned John Major against hardening Britain's stance on Europe because of "duhiously valid electoral considerations" writes Fran Abrams.

A report by the deputy chief whip of the group, Brendan Donnelly, hinted that the Prime Minister would damage Britain's interests by taking a However, privately all other more Euro-sceptic line.



Foot down: Paddy Ashdown visiting the artificial limbs workshop at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, yesterday

# Ashdown does the soft-shoe shuffle

**Barrie Clement** 

The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a cameo appearance yesterday on the campaign trail with Paddy Ashdown. Visiting a cial limbs, Mr Ashdown spotted a false leg with a rather disagreeable suede shoe on the foot. "Ah." said Mr Ashdown. "For

Kenneth Clarke I presume.' The Liberal Democrat leader was visiting Queen Mary University Hospital, in south-west London, where the Second World War pilnt, Douglas Bader, was fitted out with tin legs

for help of another kind - sticks with which to beat the Government. But the doctors and veniently optimistic about their lot. Yes life was tough, but no we can't complain, they said.

If the staff was un-cooperative, in a pleasant kind of way. the patients were aghast at secing "that man on the telly" faceto-face. Yvonne Slydel, trying to recover fram the "heeby jeebies" in the accident and emergency department found her

had been rushed in with a "per-sonal problem", but found himself suddenly mobbed.

There was also a small child to be patted. Cinnamon Aylen, three-and-half-year-old victim of a chip pan fire, was keeping her voting intentions to herself. Indeed she quite rightly refused to say anything. In the hospital café two old

out what was going on from be- said. The Liberal Democrat hind a large plaster which ob-scured most of his face. And consult some physiotherapists there was poor Alan Smith who sustained on his thumb. They seemed to think the hurt sustained was small beer and they took only a professional inter-

est in his problem. One women patient showed Mr Ashdown her "bad knee" and waved a St Christopher medallion at him. She was, she said, a pianist who supported Mr Ashdown, but who also

so that he could back to fighting the Hun.

Mr Ashdown was looking bed surrounded by 20-strong posse from the media. One man was barely able to make hair. "Kept it well, he has," one former minister and sitting fory MP in the constituency. Then briefly to Hampton

Hill Junior School, where Mr Pied Piper of Hamlyn figure, pursued by children around the playground. "How are you off for equipment?" Mr Ashdown asked headteacher William Jerman. "Quite well off really," replied the head. Not quite the required response. Don't doctors, nurses and teachers realise how badly off



Tea break: Tony Blair with trainees at the Birmingham Automotive Technology centre yesterday Photograph: David Rose

# Labour leader promises wheel of change for the young jobless

Political Correspondent

Ju

Во

Tony Blair wielded a spanner yesterday as Labour's election machine turned its attention to young people, training and jobs. On a visit to a vehicle mechanics' training workshop in the marginal Birmingham seat of Yardley, the Labour leader said lower unemployment figures were the result of changes in the way the statistics

"I don't think most people believe these statistics are a true reflection of the situation. Some people are not able to claim unemployment hencfit hut are still hasically unemployed." he

Mr Blair said he had chosen to visit Birmingham Automotive Technology, which has about 800 part-time and full-time trainees learning car mechanics. hodywork repairs and parts distribution, to show how training, skills and technology could get

Labour has promised to find work for 250,000 under-25s who are currently on benefit.

The Labour leader chatted with young trainees at the centre and even looked for a moment as if he were about to muck in and change a wheel before he changed his mind and headed for the canteen.

Among the trainees who met Mr Blair was 17-year-old Clare Ameson, who has been made the centre's student of the year

the unemployed back to work. for her high performance, good attendance and positive attitude.

Ms Ameson, who works at Bridge Cross Volvo in Stourbridge and is studying an day re-lease for a Bter qualification, said she was impressed with Mr Blair.

"I would vote Labour if I were able to vote, because of the opportunities he is trying to create for young people. He seemed really nice and he was interested in what we were doing," she said.

# Major spreads message from private school

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Major chose a private fee-paying school for the first school visit in his general election campaign to send out a clear message that the Conservatives' support for private-sector education will be one of the key battlegrounds with

Senior Thry sources said Mr Major will "take risks" in the sixweek election campaign, and giving priority to private education places will be seen as a highly risky strategy – suggesting that the Tories are keen to bolster their core vote, before trying to widen their appeal.

I wanted to draw attention to opportunities that exist for youngsters from low-income households who have the advantage of the assisted places scheme to come to schools like Pangbourne," Mr Major said. It is an indication of the sort of excellence I would like to see right the way through education, in the public sector and the pri-

Labour would strangle assisted places, and the independent sector and grant maintained schools as well, Mr Major said. "That would wreck diversity of education."

Mr Major, an old boy of Rutlish grammar school, was embraced with open arms by the pupils at Pangbourne College. Newhury, where the fees are £12,000 a year for boarders. There are 32 assisted places

out of a total of 375 pupils at the school, which boasts it caters for the sons and daughters of millionaires and lone parents. The deputy head, Gerry Pike, attacked Labour's policy as "foolish" and cast doubt on ter attack so far against Tony

whether Labour would go dangling from a tree". It ly chat with Louis, the 13-year-ahead with abolition of assistant amounted to an obstacle course old son of Monty Lynch, a pro-

They are on the hook of having to provide money for nursery education. I suspect that in government, Gordon Brown. will be more creative," Mr Pike

It was Mr Major's second visit to the school in recent weeks, and his aides said he chose it because he was impressed with its emphasis on team work. and leadership. He was treated to a display by the school's cadet forces.

Party sources promised ac-.tivities to foster team work, in-

the Prime Minister in an embarrassing position. There was a bizarre exhibition of 10 students walking with their feet strapped to two planks, and an attempted rescue of the trapped "tree surgeon".

Coming a day after the tour of McLaren, where he saw a racing car with no wheels, Mr Major is learning fast.
He refused to stop for the

amounted to an obstacle course

of photo-opportunities to trap.

photographers by a cadet giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a rubber doll which closely resembled Michael Hesold son of Monty Lynch, a professional cricketer who used to play for Mr Major's team, Sur-

The school is having trouble finding a New Labour candidate for its mock elections.

The last time they were held in the school in1992, the Conservatives won with a landslide. If Mr Major could limit the vote to the Pangbourne students, he would be home and dry.

The Prime Minister was mobbed by the pupils when he made his way to the helicopter which lifted him back to London, and the difficulties of re-

### Morale-raising pep talk sends troops to battle

Labour support is "a mile wide Blair's New Labour Party. "I risk. Its slogan that it was but an inch deep", John Major loathe socialism," Mr Major de "time for a change" would told party workers at Conservative Central Office last night in a hard-hitting speech to raise morale for the election battle, writes Colin Brown.

Mr Major's pep talk to staff was reinforced by a rallying call to the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs in an attempt to send backbenchers off to their constituencies with a hope of winning against all the odds.

Underlining the difficulty he faces in convincing his party that he can win against Labour's massive lead in the opinion poll, Mr Major sought to convince his troops that the support for Labour was shallow. He also made his most bit-

clared. "I loathe Labour and I loathe what they have done to our country. I loathe what they are still doing in Sheffield and Camden and councils up and down the country." Reviving memories of the

inter of Discontent, he said that in 1979, the "real question was whether Britain was governable." He contrasted that with his view of the Tory record. "Today, nobody would dream of asking that question."

He said the Tories had transformed the country with its reforms of the NHS, the trade, unions and education. He repeated his message that brought within the treaty being "Britain is booming", but said negotiated at the Intergovern-

"time for a change" would "destroy everything that is right about Britain today. We won the battle of ideas and with your help we will win the battle for hearts and minds of Britain in this election," he said, Malcolm Rikind, the Foreign

meeting in The Hague that the Dutch presidency of the Euro-pean Union had made a signifcant concession to Britain's amands to keep its border controis. He said the Dutch Minister for Europe, Michael Patijan, had conceded that the removal of border controls would not be

المكذا من الأصل

### election countdown

# Trains, planes and automobiles: who pays?

Chief Political Correspondent

A British Midland 737 jet has been lent to the Tory party by Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of the company, to transport the Prime Minister and his campaign team with accompanying journalists to the key marginals in the West Country and the north of England.

He is also using a Bristow's Sikorski helicopter to hit the campaign trail for day trips to enable John Major to return to London at night.

However, unlike his predeprivatised rail transport to give his personal backing to the policy which has been heavily criticised, particularly over the cuts in services by South West Trains. Baroness Thatcher refused to travel by trains, which the security services feared were more open to possible terrorist attack.

The Major "battle bus" will meet the Prime Minister at his campaign sites, to ferry him and meetings in towns across the

The campaign is costing the Tories more than £20m, in-cluding poster advertising, and much of it is being funded by personal donations from business leaders, including some from abroad. But the personal, backing of businessmen such as: Sir Michael will help keep the costs down. He is being very generous," a Conservative Party source said.

Party sources said that Mr ... The Prime Minister will be Major would be taking his campaien to the four corners of Britain - England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The bus, which was wheeled out in 1992, and the jet will be equipped with high-tech kit to. enable him to keep in touch.

also uses the equipment to keep in touch with the latest Test Ticket scores.

There are on-board televisions to check on daily news coverage, and Downing Street has a sophisticated telephone system which can "patch" calls al-most anywhere in the country. The advent of the mobile telephone has intensified the pace with which the Prime Minister

will face questions on events. Mr Major's personal protection officers who go with him everywhere, even on party busiss, are also equipped with satellite telephones, which can cessor, Mr Major will also use come in useful where there are gaps in the cellular network.

The battle bus will be fol-lowed by two Wallace Arnold coaches carrying the press. The sight of three coachloads of me-dia people caused chaos in 1987 when they descended on Harry Ramsden's Yorkshire chip shop with Lady Thatcher. Tory organisers have learned from such experiences, but they believe that the scenes of Mr campaign sites, to ferry him and Major facing student hecklers his famous soapbox to public in Luton this week will help rekindle fears of "old Labour" militancy. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, got security clearance for the public walk-abouts to overcome safety fears.

The battle bus is bomb and bullet proof, and carries an array of office equipment. Secre-taries are available to rewrite speeches on board, with printers and computer systems linked to the research base at .Conservative Party headquarters in Smith Square.

accompanied by Sheila Gunn, his personal press secretary, Howell James, his chief policy adviser, and speech writers. Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords, will co-ordinate the Govecument's business, while Mr Major is away, operating from



High-fiver: John Major at Pangbourne yesterday with the Sikorski helicopter which he will use for day trips, allowing him to return to London at night.

A 737 jet has been loaned by Sir Michael Bishop of British Midland for longer trips with political colleagues

Photograph: Brian Hams

# Foreign donors give Conservatives plenty of trouble

Westminster Correspondent

The recent history of Tory funding has been dominated by donations from . foreign sources, some highly controversial. The most troublesome was cost too much to try to recover it.

Octav Botnar, former boss of Nissan UK, gave £90,000 and is now living in Switzerland, baving fled from £440,000 from Asil Nadir, the Cypri- the authorities. The Sunday Times said ot businessman who fled Britain at- "Ma Ching-kwan, one of Hong Kong's

The Conservatives have refused all he has sought help bringing his elderly calls to return the money and the refather - wanted by Hong Kong poceivers of the company said it would . lice - back to Hong Kong without fear of prosecution.

Other Hong Kong donors included the late Sir YK Pao, head of Wharfe Holdings, who gave £1m, and Li Ka Shing, who donated £900,000. Peter Woo, who took over from his

Wharfe Holdings, gave £200,000 in 10 have given other donations accounts to public scrutiny, saying the 1994. Stephen Byers, a Labour front-amounting 10 a total of £1.5m. bencher, identified another five Hong Kong citizens who gave a total of just

under £500,000. John Latsis, a Greek shipping magnate, gave £500,000 before the last election, which was recently confirmed by Lord McAlpine. former

amounting to a total of £1.5m.

Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, gave £250,000 in 1987 but has since fallen out with the Torics. Probably the higgest recent British contributor was Graham Kirkham, a recently knighted businessman, who provided a "soft loan" of £4m.

nations are a private matter hetween donor and recipient. A Conservative Central Office source privately denied that much money was obtained from ahroad but admitted: "Lots comes from people on the Honours List. That's where you should look if you're interested in finding out where

Lib Dems the poor relations among the parties

Barrie Clement

The Liberal Democrats are very much the poor relations when compared with Labour and the Conservatives. The party will spend between £5m and £6m on he election, some £2.5m of which will be disbursed by Lib-Dem heudquarters at Cowley Street, Westminster and the rest by constituency committees.

Lord Holme, head of the general election campaign, calculated the two other parties will spend five or 10 times more. He says his organisations has no "sugar daddies". While the parreceives a "six-figure sum" from the Rowntree Trust, most

donations are less than £100. "Our money comes from real people. The 'Peoples' Party' receives cash from trade unions. The Toxics get their money from Hong Kong millionaires hecause most reputable multi-

nationals have long since stopped funding them, he said. Lord Holme said the bulk of the Lib Dems' election funds are generated by voluntary activity such as cheese and wine parties.

Some £300,000 will be set aside for the three-and-a-half week "leader's lour" during which Mr Ashdown will spend most of his time in the "battle bus". A "season ticket" for the roadshow, which starts to roll on April, will cost newspapers, radio stations or television companies £6,350 for each of their reptesentatives. There will also be the occasional flight, sometimes by helicopter as befits a former Royal Marine officer.

Stop-off points are being kept under wraps, but much attention will be focused on south-west Britain, especially where the party came second to the Con-

Lord Holme said: "My slogar is a saying of my mother's: If you've got no money, you have to think. We will be nimble. We will be leaner and meaner than

# Labour's fleet of Rovers plus Prescott's silver bus

Political Correspondent

Labour has spent tens of thou-sands of pounds hiring a fleet of 40 Rover saloon cars to ferry its senior politicians around during the election campaign.

Although the party has refused to comment on its election arrangements or on what they would cost, the bill for its executive cars would amount to almost £80,000 at commercial

Tony Blair is also expected have two "battle-buses" and to between £15m and £20m. access to a helicopter, while John Prescott will travel in a ty spent £10m, £7.6m of it durspecially-converted coach. But

will travel mainly in the special election cars and by train.

Some of the lease vehicles will be based at party regional offices around the country for the use of officials and visiting politicians. Others will stay in London and will ferry senior figures around the capital and on electioneering visits to the.

The cars will form a major part of Labour's battle armoury, though their cost will only make up a fraction of the total election bill, which is expected to come

At the last election the paring 1992 and the rest during the other shadow Cabinet members preceding three years, but this

time the hill is expected to be coach has been painted silvermuch higher.

In the past, 80 per cent of the party's funding came from the trades unions but that figure is thought to have dropped to around 50 per cent. However, fund-raising from business has been intense, with individual do-nations helieved to be in excess

Among the high-profile figures who are reported to have given money to the party are Alec Reed, founder of the Reed Personnel Services employment agency, and Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television.

The "Prescott Express" was unveiled yesterday with great ceremony. The former 50-seater the election.

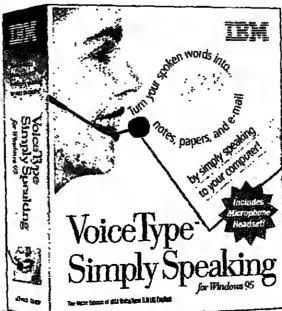
grey with a red-rose logo and the slogan: "Prescott Express on the Road." It also bears the legend: "It's Good to Vote." Inside there is a conference area, work space, a rest room and a kitchen. It also carries a portable stage

and sound system.

Mr Blair's two buses have not yet been seen, but they will be visible every day during the main election campaign. The Labour leader is also expected

to charter planes when necessary. After the party's conference last September Mr Blair left by helicopter for a tour of marginal seats, and he is expected to take similar trips during

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### **Bloody Sunday** pledge from Mowlam

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

would look again at the contiming controversy over the Bloody Sunday killings with an open mind, the party's North-ern Ireland spokesman. Mo Mowlam, said yesterday. Dr Mowlam, who described

the new evidence which had emerged as "disturbing", was speaking as the Irish government - along with most of the other major parties - continued to press for the reopening of inquiries into the incident, when 13 men and youths were shot dead by paratroops in Londonderry in January 1972.

has been generated by reports on Channel 4 News and in the Duhlin Sunday Business Post, both of which produced comments from a paratrooper who was present that day. On Channel 4 News a soldier said: "Command and control was absent for a period of 15 minutes. During that period a number of fairly soldier's claims about his stateunfortunate ... decisions were .. ment as "incredibly worrying".

made by individuals on the ground which led to some thameful and disgraceful acts A new Labour government being perpetrated."

would look again at the conThe Duhlin newspaper pro-

duced an account of a soldier who made a number of serious allegations. Among these were claims that some of the killings had occurred after an order had been given to ceasefire, and that soldiers had made use of illegal "dem-dum" bullets, which had been doctored to inflict maxi-

mum damage.

According to this soldier his statement of events, to be given to the Widgery tribunal which investigated the deaths. had been replaced by a fictionalised account designed to con-The latest surge of interest ceal the fact that shots had been fired into a crowd.

The Irish government is compiling a dossier, incorporating this and other evidence, which is to be presented to the British government. The Boiseach, John Bruton, has taken a personal interest in the controversy and described the

#### **Former Sunday Times** editor admires Blair

significant shorts

Andrew Neil, former editor of the Tory-leaning Sunday Times, is a "great admirer" of Tony Blair and would love the Labour leader to give him a job, according to an interview in today's New Statesman. Mr Neil, who is now editor-in-chief of The Scotsman, says Mr Blair has the makings of a radical prime minister.

"Maybe Mr Blair is looking for ambassador in Washington?

A head of the Downing Street Policy Unit? He'll need a good radical to keep him on the straight and narrow. That's my fear, that he'll be too establishment, surrounded by all these public schoolboys," he says.

#### Gay challenge to MPs

The gay rights group Outrage! is to challenge 20 allegedly homophobic MPs to watch gay sex videos to check whether they have latent homosexual feelings.

Peter Tatchell, the group's spokesman, said research by Professor Henry Adams of the University of Georgia

showed that 80 per cent of meo who said they were exclusively heterosexual were sexually aroused by homoerotic imagery. Outrage! has written to the MPs, who voted against liberalising homosexuality laws in 1994, inviting them to undergo Professor Adams' test. The campaigners claim the professor's findings support theories that homophobia is often indicative of repressed homosexual feelings.

#### Dream on

The Rainbow Connection Dream Ticket Leisure Party plans to stand candidates in 50 scats on a manifesto to scrap Parliament and introduce electronic voting to every house in Britain - for which everyone would be paid £300. Your PC can now type what you say. It's so simple, it's called VoiceType Simply Speaking. the new dictation software from IBM. Your thoughts go directly from your spoken word to your screen. It types 70 to 100 words a minute and is smart enough to know the difference hetween 'right' and 'write'. So if you feel like a good chat. VoiceType can be found at the

computer dealer shown or try your local computer shop.

Further information can be found at www.software.ibm.com/is/voicetype

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## election countdown

Anti-abortion debate: Fledgling party unveils pictures of dead babies it wants to use in TV broadcast

# **Prolife** group to challenge censors

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Anti-abortionists who plan to fight the election in at least 50 constituencies yesterday un-veiled the graphic pictures of dead babies they want to tele-

vise in an election broadcast. The Prolife Alliance said it would challenge any attempt to censor the scenes because it was important that the reality is shown". Bruno Quintavalle, its director, said it was entitled to have its views aired on television because it will be fielding enough candidates to qualify for a broadcast slot.

He could see no justification for not showing the film of is any solution in a civilised

ready been seeing a lot of very borrifying footage - scenes from Rwanda, Bosnia and other atrocities that the public felt important was seen," he said.

The clips come from a nineminute American film with footage from a Texas abortion clinic. Individual limbs and heads as well as whole foetuses are clearly visible.

The alliance is standing on an "absolutist" platform whereby all abortion should be banned. although an exception would be made if the woman's life was at risk. Mr Quintavalle, a 25-yearold philosophy graduate, said: "We don't believe that abortion

It is important that if people are going to support abortion they are aware of what it entails." Dr Michael Jarmulowicz, a world. It's not about presenting

package of compromises.

There is no way we can ascribe

some magical date after which

buman life has a value it didn't

have before." The alliance

wanted to get "the truth" de-bated openly, he said. "The na-

tion is in denial about abortion.

Campaign launch: Jane Neilsen, a Prolife Alliance candidate, at yesterday's briefing, where graphic pictures of dead bables were shown. Inset: a lapel badge showing the feet of a 10-week-old foetus Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra consultant pathologist, said he had come across many women who had been traumarised by abortion. "I think people need abortion." I think people need to a serious said he ministers Douglas Hogg. Virginia Bottomley and Sir George Young and Labour MPs Jack to know before hand what they are letting themselves in for."

The alliance estimates that its campaign will cost less than £100,000 and will be funded by individual donations. Many of its candidates are Muslim or Catholic, although it has no of-

Cunningham and Margaret Hodge are among those who will face a prolife candidate. Jane Nielsen, 30, a Catholic from Liverpool, said she had decided to stand because too fre-quently ordinary people did

A BBC spokesman said any party which was fielding 50 candidates qualified for a party political broadcast slot. Howev er, all broadcasts had to meet its standards of taste and decency. They must not be "of-fensive to public feeling". Similarly, the ITV network and Channel 4 must follow the Independent Television Commission code on taste and decency.

Tartan army left smarting as 'Sun' deserts the cause

Rob Brown Media Editor

Kinning Park, Rupert Mur-doch's mini Wapping on Clyde-side, yesterday joined Culloden and Glencoe as a scene of be-trayal in the Scottish nationalist psyche when the only daily newspaper to support the cause of Scottish independence deserted it on the battlefield.

The tartanised edition of the Sun - which came out in sup-port of a separate Scottish state in the run-up to the 1992 elec-tico - oot only hrutally turned its back on Alex Salmood's Scottish Nationalist Party, hut urged its 400,000 subscribers north of the border to lay down their claymores and rally behind that smooth-talking Sassenach,

Tony Blair.
Mr Salmond instantly and instinctively blamed the oppres-sive English for this suddeo

al. But it's a start," If Labour's promised Scottish assembly turned out to be a "shambles" this would reinforce the argument for independence – and if it was a success Scots would seek

more power. But Mr Salmond said the election in Scotland was a twohorse race between the SNP and Labour and claimed the paper's Scottish staff had resisted the

forced to change its line through orders from London," he said, adding that the move was in line with Labour's "purge" of the Labour Party in Scotland. "If Tony Blair set up a Scot-tish assembly, no doubt he

The Scottish Sun has been

would put the thumbscrews on that as well," he said.

Labour in Scotland welcomed its latest convert, despite the Sun's qualification that it still supported independence as a



Rallying call: Yesterday's edition of the Scottish Sun, which urged voters there to back Tony Blair

switch of allegiance. The "thumbscrews" had applied on the paper from London, where the English edition of the Sun had deserted the Tories and backed Mr Blair 24 hours previously. "I'm not so much angry as sad - sad wheo any Scottish itution has to swallow an imposed line from south of the border," he told BBC Radio

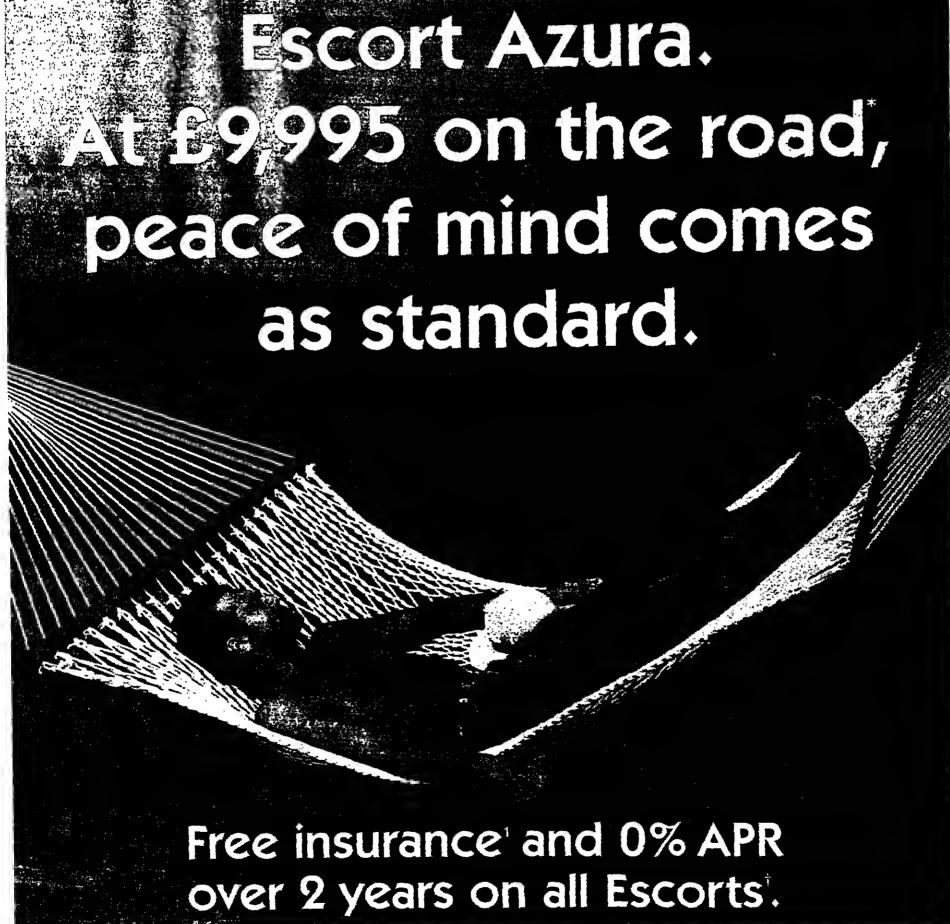
Scotland. In words which would have had William Wallace's hung, drawn and quartered body birling in its grave, the Scottish Sun splashed its policy shift in a froot-page editorial under the headline "Bravehearts must wait ... it's time for brave

The leading article argued: We are throwing our weight behind the Labour Party at this election. Their plans for a Scottish parliament are far from ide-

long-term goal Jim Wallace, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, said the oewspaper's support for independence in Scotland and the Tories in England had always been "bizarre". But the Scottish Tory party chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, said: "A newspaper which one day supports independence and then the next supports Unionism is showing the consistency of a weather vane on a stormy day."

Neither Rupert Murdoch nor any of his minions at Wapping or Kinning Park in Glasgow were available for comment yesterday. But they are, obviously, poised oo both sides of the border to peo any comment which the Australian-American media believes will advance the construction of his

global media empire from oow





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# EU ruling new blow for British beef sales

Sales of British beef in Europe appeared last night to be doomed permanently following agreement on new EU rules forcing all beef to be marked with its country of origin.

Government efforts to fight the controversial scheme amid fears it could undermine attempts to revive exports after the EU trade embargo is lifted, were overruled at a meeting of European agricultural ministers. The move comes in a bid to restore consumer confidence in beef, still shaken a year to the day after Stephen Dorrill's-House of Commons statement linking BSE and CID triggered

#### Family to sue over CJD death

Relatives of a student who died from "new variant" Crentz-feldt Jakob Disease (CJD) that scientists have linked to "mad cow" disease have won legal aid to sue the Government, writes

exactly a year after Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. or kidneys more than once a told Parliament that the best explanation for the 10 cases then ing by cadmium, a heavy metknown of "v-CID" was exposure. al found in sewage sludge, to the agent that causes borine : according to new research comspongiform encepalopathy, or missioned by the Government. BSE, in cattle.

Peter Hall, 20, died in February 1996. The North Durham coroner Geoffrey Burt told the inquest that the blame lay with BSE-contaminated beet: Peter's brother John, a student, has won backing from the Legal Aid Board to take action.

a worldwide health scare. Agreement on the labelling. rules came after a three-day debate which saw Britain lose the battle against the first return to national food promotions in the 40-year existence of the Common Agricultural Policy.

British consumers will not have. to be told where the meat they buy originates from. This, the Government had argued, would place an unrealistic burden on

retailers and producers.

Mandatory identification of the country of origin of beef on sale in shops will come into force from I January, 2000, according. to the deal agreed vesterday. Britain will be free to omit is-

or abroad provided the country. of export is also opting out of the scheme. In practice, only Italy is expected to opt out.
Before 2000, member states

can bring in labelling on a vol-untary basis for beef produced and marketed at home. This, for example, will allow the French immediately to legalise the French beef which have provoked anger from neighbouring countries which claim they are a form of trade discrimination.

It seems clear that if, as expected, other EU countries mark the origin of their beef, then any British beef which finds it way into supermarkets in Europe will also be readily identifiable merely by the absence of a sticker.

The European Commission had also voiced reluctance about the scheme which flies in the face of the principles of the single market, but condemna-tion of its handling of food safety led to a change of heart.
"Consumers want more information. They now want to know how meat is produced," said a

People white at sheep's liver week could be at risk of poison-

Preliminary results of the work, published in today's New Scientist, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff), found that the livers of sheep which had grazed on land fertilised with sewage sludge had levels of than sheep grazing on clean pasture. The concentration of cadminm in their kidneys was six

The finding also presents problems for water companies, which, after 1998, will probably dumping of sewage sludge in the sea, and are expected to try to The only concession was that increase its use as fertiliser. A third of the 30 million tounes of sewage sludge produced each year in Britain is dumped into the sea, a third is incinerated or buried in landfill sites, and a third is given to farmers.

Cadmium is introduced into sewage through industrial processes such as electroplating. In humans, it causes kidney and liver damage and affects the operation of the red blood cells.



Fitting tribute: Delegates carrying wreaths in a mock funeral yesterday at the opening of the UK Clothing and Textile National Conference in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; the march, staged by the GMB union, marked the death of jobs caused by the migration of the industry to low-wage, third-world countries

Photograph: Bryn Colton

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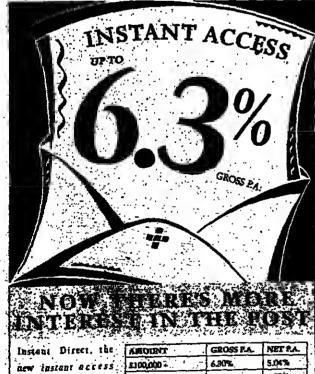


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# Inspectors let private schools off lightly

Education Editor

Inspection teams which monitor standards on behalf of independent schools are too reluctant to criticise poor heads and senior teachers, according to the Government's schools

And the inspectors, organised by associations representing independent schools, should be more prepared to say unequivocally that standards are not high enough

Two reports from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) examined the inspections systems used by the five major independent school associations and covering more

than 1,300 schools. Ofsted concluded that the inspections were usually objective, rigorous and helped schools improve, but inspectors needed to do more to discover whether pupils in independent schools, which are usually selective, were fulfilling their potential.

The reports look at the system operated by top public schools in the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) and the Accreditation. Review and Consultancy Service (ARCS) one used by

other independent schools. On HMC inspections, the report says that there are considerable strengths and considerable defects. "In most HMC schools it is to be expected that standards of attainment are well above national norms, given the advantages which the schools and pupils generally enjoy. Few of the reports senously tackle the key question of whether, given these circummake is all that it should be. Ofsted says ARCS inspec-

tions provide a useful agenda which most schools take seri-ously but "there is a tendency in some teams to fight shy of criticism of senior management." In addition, the team leader rarely checks the quality of the evidence provided by the team.

Where inspectors use exam results to compare standards in independent schools with those in other schools "a significant number use the results for all maintained schools which will tend to flatter these schools. many of which are to some extent selective.

Both systems should be more transparent to parents, Ofsted says. Publication of the reports at the schools' discretion. HMC schools give parents a summary, but they are not entitled to the full report as they would be in the state sector. Both systems meet their own, different objectives, but both need to ddress weaknesses if they wish

to gain full credibility.
Vivian Anthony, secretary of HMC, said: "We are pleased that Ofsted recognises that schools are being improved as a result of inspection. It is no surprise, that, after an operation of less than three years, there are some weaknesses; these

will be addressed." Averil Burgess, ARCS chairman, said they vindicated inspections in their two main objectives - to give assurance on standards and contribute to school improvement. The organisation is to press ahead with establishing reliable ways of assessing pupils ability across the full range of schools.



Survivor: A rare Essex pig from the herd belonging to barrister lain Whitney, 45, peering out from a field near Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire. The breed was amalgamated with the Wessex saddleback by the British Pig Association in 1967 but a nest of the pure strain in the Midlands was officially recognised last year Photograph: John Lawrence

# Warning over failing health of the nation

Two big killers - lung cancer and skin cancer - are set to become more common in future because the Government is failing to reach the targets laid down in its Health of the Nation White Paper, MPs warned yesterday. The all-party Public Ac-

counts Committee said it was dismayed by the rise in teenage smoking", which would have

consequent ill-effects on the ment of Health, with the Depopulation, including the incidence of cancer and vascular

Health of the Nation, pub-lished in 1992, aimed to reduce smoking among 11-15-year-olds by at least a quarter, from 8 per cent to 6 per cent of the age group by 1994. In fact, it went in the opposite direction, increasing by a half, to 12 per cent.

MPs called on the Depart-

partment of the Environment and the Department for Edu-cation and Employment, to ex-

plore what further action could be taken to reverse this trend. Members noted the "steep vear-on-year rise to 1988 in cases of skin cancer and although these trends appeared to have levelled off up to 1992, the latest information showed a further rise". Noting that most

cases are avoidable, they "urged. the Department to consider what more can be done to reduce the incidence of this disease through further improve-

ments in health education". The department had made progress, however, on 11 out of targets, moving in the right direction on cancer of the cervix and breast, heart disease, stroke and teenage pregnancy.

and lazier, which members feared would have a knock-on effect on future rates of heart disease. The White Paper had recommended male obesity should come down by a quarter and female obesity by a third.

Finally, the committee also expressed its concern at the rise in drinking among women - one in seven were now drinking more than 14 units of alcohol

Health of the Nation - and the rising suicide rate among Asian women,

of the British Medical Association, said that more drastic action was needed to combat illhealth. On the failure to meet obesity targets, he urged positive measures to improve traffic safety and reduce street crime so adults and children could walk to work and school.



Time is running out if you want to make the most of your PEP allowance this tax year

The tax year ends on 5th April, so time's running out if you want to take advantage of this year's PEP allowance. For most people, the decision to invest in a PEP is easy the problem is deciding which of the hundreds of PEPs available is the right one.

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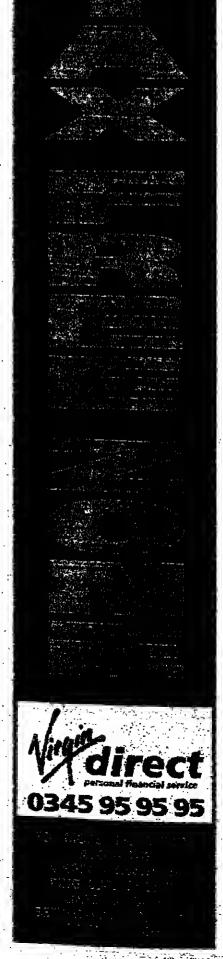


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strange and wonderful."

# The prime of prizewinner Muriel Spark

David Lister Arts News Editor

The oovelist Dame Muriel Spark, 79, won a £40,000 lifetime achievement award yesterday and said she would be giving £10,000 to the Edinburgh school that inspired her classic novel, The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie

The rest she would use to buy a lovely, new, suitable motorcar which I hope will hear me in and out of our famous tunnel with ever more case and

Travel, she said in her acceptance speech, was the lifeblood of literature. "We have to find at first hand how other people live and die, what they say, how they smell, how they are made. I recommend travel to young authors. And also to authors not

so young.". The British Literature Prize, awarded every two years by the Arts Council and funded by the David Cohen Family Charitable Trust, is designed to recognise a lifetime's achievement to a living British writer. The winner is given £30,000 plus a further £10,000 to commission work which will encourage young writers and readers

The prize was set up by the Arts Council in conjunction with David Cohen, a doctor and arts benefactor. The judging panel solicits views from the rublic before making a decision.

Dame Muriel has written novels, plays, poems, children's stories and biographies. But her name remains most clear-ly associated with her 1961 novel. The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie, about an Edinburgh schoolteacher who exercises a powerful and dangerous influence over her charges. It was memorably adapted into a film

starring Maggie Smith.

Announcing that she would be giving £10,000 to her former school, James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh, Dame Muriel said: "It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to present a gift for cultural activities



Professor Andrew Motion.

chairman of the judges, said:

"This year's winner will be

known to almost everyone in the

country; her writing has become

a part of our life. Yet one of her

greatest gifts is to make the

School. I have a particular fondless rewriting of the Piper Pied ness for the school and I feel as I called him, so as to rhyme very strongly that young people should be encouraged to explore their creative talents. I hope this with 'he cried'. And so, where angels feared to tread I continned to rush in with my imaward will enable some of the provements on many such pupils to do exactly that.

"I think I am right in saying that James Gillespie's School was founded exactly 200 years ago, in 1797, under the will of a prosperous snuff merchant. James Gillespie himself. I attended the school for 12 years and celebrated this important fact in my novel The Prime of

Miss Jean Brodie." Receiving the prize at a reception in Londoo last night, Dame Muriel added: "The stated purpose of this award for a lifetime's achievement' is one that greatly appeals to me, for I have dedicated a lifetime to the art of letters and to perfecting it to the utmost of my talents and capacities."

She reminisced on her first literary effort, aged nine, a poem intended, she said, "as an improvement on Robert Browning's The Pied Piper Of Hamlin. My elders and teachers were somewhat intrigued by this ruth

Dame Maggie Smith as the overbearing schoolmistress with har charges in the film of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (left), based on Dame Muriel Spark's 1961 novel. Dam Muriel (right) plans to donate £10,000 prize money to the Edinburgh school that inspired her Photograph: Kobal

importance to generations of things we know seem new and schoolchildren and I'm sure they will continue to be. Colin Finlayson, headteach-The previous two winners of er at the school, said: "We are

the prize, established in 1993. delighted to be honoured in this were playwright Harold Pinter way by Muriel Spark. Her books have been of particular literary and novelist VS Naipaul.



# How to vote if you are away from home, ill or disabled

The General Election has been called for 1 May 1997. Some people will be away from home or unable to attend. their polling stations for other reasons. If this applies to you - or if you've moved home since 10 October 1996 apply for a postal or proxy vote today.

examples of English literature."

Many areas in England will also have local government elections on I May. Even if you already have a postal or proxy vote for these elections, this will not automatically give you such a vote at the general election. Apply now if in doubt. (You can at the same time use this form to apply for a postal or proxy vote at the local government elections: if >-. you need one, tick the box in the form)

#### WHEN TO APPLY

Fill in the form and send it by first class post (or take it by hand) to the Electoral Registration Officer for the area where you are registered as

He or she is normally based at the Council Offices. The address is in the phone book. The form must reach the Electoral Registration Officer no later than 5pm on 16 April 1997.

#### HOW TO APPLY USING THE FORM

Part 1. Fill in part 1. Remember to give the reason why you can't vote in person. Tick the box for local government elections if you need to.

Part 2. Fill in either part 2a or part 2b. If you will be in the UR during the election period you can choose to vote by post or to appoint a 'proxy' (someone who will vote for you at your polling station). Postal ballot papers are normally sent out about a week before polling day, so make sure you take this into consideration when you decide how to vote.

If you wish to vote by post, fill in part 2a. You may not vote by post from

If you wish to appoint a proxy, fill in part 2b. Your proxy must be qualified to vote in the General Election. A proxy may not vote at the same election for more than two people unless they are close relatives - husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or

If you live in Northern Ireland you cannot use this form. You should contact your local Electoral Office.

If you need extra forms ask your Electoral Registration Officer.

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|-----------------------------------|--|---|
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|                                   |  | Poll District   |
| Application One person per        | to vote by post or proxy at the General Election form please   | Elect. No.  |
| Read the notes on                 | the left before completing this form in BLOCK LETTERS  About yourself  | Tick here if you also need a posta<br>or proxy vote at local governmen  |
|                                   |  | elections on 1 May  |
| Your name                         | Surname  |   |
|                                   | rolenanes  |   |
| Present                           |  |   |
| address                           | Postcode Telephone number(s) (if a   | nny)  |
| Address on                        | This might not be your present address if you have moved house:  |   |
| register                          |  |   |
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#### The Daffodils

By Marita Over

And now I don't know
if they were real or in a book. of colluding schoolgirls, sucking on straws

clear-eyed, insouciant. Launching themselves from their vase on the sill, or maybe a vale.

or the brow of a hill, they were almost evangelical.

anyway, all yellow, with a feverish faith in something.

And I went quietly once with a pair of silver scissors at bonnety optimism.

to sain out their anthers like Midas' eyclashes.

"Deffodils" appears in issue 147 of the quarterly arts magazine Ambit, which contains poetry, fiction, criticism and draw-ings by contributors who include Peter Porter, Geoff Nicholson and Kevin Crossley-Holland. Ambit costs £6 for a single issue or £22 for an annual subscription from Freepost, 17 Priory Gardens, London N55BR. Marita Over, who won an Eric Gregory Award in 1992, will be publishing Other Lilies later this year with Frogmore Press.

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5pm on 16 April 1997. There is a separate form for people who need a postal or proxy vote because of

unforseen health reasons and have missed the normal closing date. Contact your Electoral Registration

Officer as soon as possible if this applies to you.

3

#### international

# Papua PM tries to appease the rebels

Michael Perry

Port Moresby - Papua New Guinea's Prime Min-ister, Sir Julius Chan, yesterday offered an olive branch to rebel army officers, saying that his government would consider dropping a plan to use mercenaries against Bougainville island.

However, a helicopter pilot from the merce-naries said in Singapore that Papua New Guinea had already cancelled its contract with British-based Sandline International for the hire of the group. "The contract's terminated, It's as simple as that." the pilot said, but his comments could not immediately be confirmed.

Sir Julius's statement came after a fresh chal-lenge to his authority as army officers railied against the use of the mercenaries to quell a nineyear island uprising on resource-rich Bougainville and a street protest erupted in violence.

Sir Julius said six of the forty mercenaries left Papua New Guinea yesterday. The other 34 re-



mained confined to barracks in the north of the country. He said he was in complete control of the South Pacific nation, which was thrown into chaos when he sacked the country's army chief who had demanded his resignation over plans to use the mercenaries on Bougainville. Protesters

the mercenaries to be sent home and for Sir Julius's resignation.

in Port Moresby, former army chief Jerry Sin-girok said last Tuesday that he accepted his diswhere 1,500 protesters arrived to support him yesterday delivered a petition which called for in his campaign against Sir Julius.

Protesters had earlier tried to entice soldiers to iom them in a march on parliament house but the soldiers cheered them while remaining in barracks. Violence followed within hours when demonstrators started looting nearby shops. Police fired tear gas into the crowd and live am-

# Har Homa salv spells out siss macho flux message bani

Patrick Cockburn

Asked how Israel intended the message of Har Homa to be received by Palestinians, the senior American diplomat was succinct. He told a reporter from the daily Jerusalem Post-"Israel's message of Har Homa for Palestinians is: Screwyoo!"

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has a different explanation of why he decided to provoke a crisis by building the Jewish settlement in Jerusalem. In fact he has two explanations, though they are ewhat contradictory. The first is that the settlement is to house the rising population of the city. His second is that the motive for Har Homa is political, and by building there Israel is asserting its sovereignty in its

"Nobody has been been able to solve the mystery of how Netanyahn's brain operates," writes Israeli columnist Yoel Marcus. "I am willing to bet that just three months ago 90 per cent of Israelis did not even know about the existence of Har Homa Today, Netanyahu is telling us. If we cave in oow everything is lost." In one move, he argues, Mr Netanyahu has turned Israel into an international parish and squandered the credit it won by withdraw-

ing from Hebron in January.
Others point to a more serious consequence of the crisis. The Oslo accords of 1993 were intended to produce a stable balance of power between Is-raelis and Palestinians over six years so the two peoples could live together peacefully. The basis of the agreement was land for peace. Mr Netanyahu may ensure that at Har Hound and elsewhere on the West Bank Palestinians get less land, but by the same token Israehs will get

An alternative explanation for Mr Netanyahu's decision over Har Homa is that he was under intolerable pressure from: his right wing. Bitter over his re-treat in Hebron, they forced him to build at Har Homa in the . hope of sabotaging Oslo as a whole. The problem with this ar-gument is that the right of the Likud party has nowhere else to go. They do not want an election and the alternative to the present government is a coalition with Labour which certainly would implement Oslo. In a let-

Jordan wrote that he was fed up with Mr Netanyahu's right wing being constantly used to explain why the Prime Minister had failed to meet his commitments.

A bizarre aspect of the Har Homa decision - since it was Homa decision — since it was hilled by the government as an issue which united Israelis — is that a majority are against building now. A poll of Israeli Jews by Gallup published in the daily Ma ariv yesterday shows that 48 per cent oppose starting construction at Har Homa cow struction at Har Homa cow and 40 per ceot are in favour although a majority believe in the right of Israel to build there. Asked if they supported the decision to go ahead even at the price of international isolation and a conflict with the Pales-tinians, 28 per cent wanted to build and 57 per cent did not. These are not pleasing figures for Mr Netanyahu. They un-

derline two important political facts. There is limited appetite in Israel for the military and political effort necessary if Israel tries to contione to occupy large areas of the West Bank Second, if Mr Netanyahu cannot deliver some sort of peace he can forget about being re-elected in three years time.

Why did Mr Netanyahu do it? The most obvious explanation is probably the best. He wanted to create a fact on the map in East Jerusalem. Dr Khalil Shikaki, a Palestinian political scientist, says: "The battle for Jerusalem is only just beginning. They felt they could not

But the American diplomat is also probably right. Before his election last May, Mr Netanyahu said the way to deal with Arabs was to be tough with them. Their demands were proportionate to what they thought they could get. By demolishing a home for disabled Palestinian children in the Old City of Jerusalem and then opening a tunnel into the Muslim quarter last year Mr Netanyanu tried to prove his point.

The result was disaster. In three days fighting in Gaza and the West Bank 61 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed. Few exercises in political machismo have proved so counter-effective. Yet six months later Mr Netanyahu has once again picked an issue, this time at Har Homa, which unites Palestinians. divides Israelis and ensures his own isolation in the world.

In many poor countries, women have to walk miles every day to collect water, carrying loads weighing as much as 20kgs

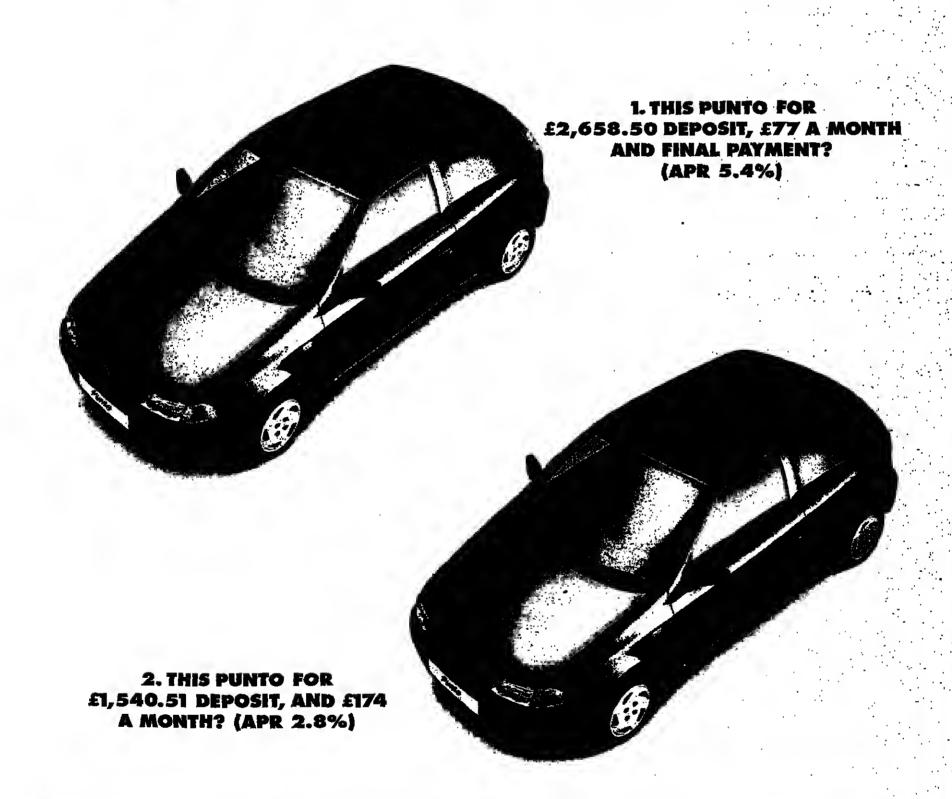
There is a global water crisis. On Friday 21 March 1997 The Independent, in association with WaterAid, will publish an



eight-page report on what the problems are, and how they WaterAld can be solved

HE INDEPENDENT

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**Andrew Gumbel** 

Overwhelmed by more than 10,000 refugees who have poured across the Adriatic from Albania in the past week, Italy yesterday declared its own state of emergency to match that of its anarchic Balkan neighbour.

The government announced it was setting aside some £25m to provide shelter, food and medicine to Albanians over the next three months and agreed to give the "refugees" temporary residence papers until conditions improved back home. Although intended to make

Italy look like the good Samaritan of the international community, the state of emergency lonked destined to perpetuate an already absurd situation, in which Albanians with no particularly good reason to leave their homeland take up the offer of a free holiday in Italy in the secure knowledge that they will be welcomed with

open arms. While Albania's other European Union neighbour, Greece, has sent in the army to patrol its borders and try to ensure that the collapse of state authority in Albania does not lead to unfettered cross-border traffic in drugs and arms, Italy appears to have thrown caution to the winds. As a result, Greece has seen no significant increase in Albanian immigrants, while Italy is swamped.

Reception centres in Puglia, the Italian region facing Albania on the Adriatic, have been overwhelmed - they were prepared for no more than 3,500 refugees - and thousands of people have been bussed to provided thousands of packets of nappies and biscuits and with young children.

While the charitable efforts have been laudable, they appear to be based on a misunderstanding of the situation in Albania and an even graver mis-understanding of the nature of the so-called refugees.

Italian television has repeatedly talked of food shortages, abject poverty and civil war in Albania, when in fact the shortages have been temporary and the civil war non-existent since the armed gunmen rampaging around the country have been firing in the air, not at each other. Although the situation has calmed down in the past few days, the number of boat people arriving in Italy has actually increased

As some Italian officials are beginning to acknowledge, the "refugees" are not impoverished victims of Albania's fraudulent pyramid schemes but families with at least \$1,000 (£630) in ready cash - a small fortune in Albania - which they have handed over to mafia gangs as the price for their

passage to Italy. A significant minority have fled Albania because they fear criminal prosecution - either because they have broken out of jail during the recent chaos or because they profited from the rampant corruption of the discredited regime of the past

Yesterday, the Italian army escorted nearly 300 "undesirables" back to Albania amid growing fears of an outbreak of delingneucy in and around the refugee reception centres.

"Not only are the Albanian mafiosi arriving, but so are Albanian weapons being put at the disposal of local organised cities in Tuscany, Abruzzi and crime groups, warned Pier the Marches Charities have Luigi Vigna, Italy's top antimana prosecutor and one of the few officials in the country who ally going on.



Suffer the children: Ermal Leka, 12, and three other boys recovering from burns in the University hospital, Tirana, Albania, where many children are injured after playing with bullets and explosives looted from government stores by rebels, and left on the streets Photograph: Andrew Buurman

# Amnesty anger at asylum barriers

Adrian Hadland

Amnesty International called yesterday on the governments of Europe to fulfil their obligations and offer asylum to refugees fleeing the violence and chaos

The human-rights organisation. launching a major campaign to highlight the world refugee crisis, talked of the thousands of people attempting to leave Albania daily, adding to the 15 million already classified as refugees in different parts of the globe.
Amnesty argued that while some European countries have been generous in

the past, many are increasingly rejuctant to honour international conventions. Such countries were making use of a "new battery of techniques" which are designed to keep refugees at bay.

Amnesty said. The use of these techniques, the group added, which seek to pass the problem off on to other countries or which grant refugees only temporary safety, mean that "countless people never get a real chance to esca ne trom

real risk of getting thrown in jail or being handed over to executioners".

The organisation cited several examples of refugees who had been returned, against their will, to the country where they had already suffered persecution or violence.

In one case, a woman from Zaire where an estimated 700,000 refugees are currently trying to flee a civil war - sought asylum in Sweden after escaping from a military prison. Although she had been tortured, the Swedish authorities rejected the woman's claim on several grounds, including their view that as Zaire's president did not control the military. her torture by soldiers did not constitute

The organisation added that the new, restrictive approach adopted by many countries included the application of harsh asylum criteria, the forcible repatriation of refugees and the fining of air-lines and shipping companies for carrying people without valid travel documents.

The restriction on ren es was often torture or death threats, or else they are justified on the grounds of economic dif- Denmark and Norway, however. Amnesty said yesterday.

sent back to countries where they run a ficulties, anti-immigrant attitudes or burgeoning xenophobia, but in some cases the new approach to the refugee crisis amounted to a "callous disregard" for human life and suffering, Amoesty

> "While the number of people needing international protection continues to grow, governments seem more concerned with keeping refugees away

from their borders".

It added that "the increasingly restrictive approach that more and more governments take toward refugees makes a mockery of their international and national obligations".

In a series of statements, booklets and reports issued yesterday, Amnesty fingered a number of countries guilty of what it perceived as a growing hostility toward refugees.

In Britain, measures such as the pronged detention of asylum-seekers. the Carriers Liability Act, the "White List" of countries (where no serious risk is considered to exist) and restrictions on legal aid and welfare support amounted to partiets to entry

were praised by the organisation for their response to refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina in particular.

Amnesty called on the international community to improve the co-ordination and monitoring of refugee protection, and rededicate itsell to the principles of the 1951 United Nations convention on

the status of refugees.

The convention includes the frequently ignored tenet that refugees should not be forcibly returned to a country where the applicant's life or freedom could be at risk.

Individually, governments should do more to publicise the plight of refugees. set up specialised bodies to deal with applications for asylum, refrain from penalising refugees for illegal entry and provide safe accommodation and adequate subsistence allowances while asylum applications can be considered.

Amnesty also called for an urgent review of funding provisions for the Unit-ed Nations High Commission for Refugees. A full report on the refugee crisis will

oublished in June, a spokesm

#### **Bandits** show off **British** manners

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Out here in the former colonies the sound of the Queen's English normally elicits either snob bish fascination or gentle mirth. But not in the opulent Maryland suburbs on Washington's north-western fringe, thanks to a pis-tol-wielding, black-clad twosome known as the "British bandits".

In the last six weeks, the pair have broken into seven houses. Unlike the proverbial thief in the night, however, they posi-tively seek confrontation, drag-ging their victims from their

Their target, apparently, is cash, not jewels or other valuables. They wear dark clothes and ski-masks, carry guns and their first entry is often through an unlocked garage door. All that police have on them is that they are white men, between 5ft 9in-oft tall, who talk with British

accents. Their latest strike came at 4am last Tuesday at a sprawling mock-Tudor mansion 10 miles outside Washington, whose occupants were roused and relieved at gunpoint of \$1,000 [£625], one of the bandits' biggest hauls so far. The modus operandi does not vary, nor do their good manners. "He was very cultured." an earlier victim told police of one of the burglars. "He could have been a member of the House of Lords for all I know,"

So who are these hooded, apparently British, villains, content to steal a few hundred dollars a victim? Modern-day Robin Hoods, some say, Rogue Con-servative fundraisers, maintain others, turning a knowing eye to John Major's electoral tra-vails back in the old country.

For Americans especially, their style is incongruous. Here. the epither "English" summons up visions of duplicitous negotiators and similar manifestations of perfidious Albion. Indeed, "English" is the United States term for the wicked spin an expert pool player gives the cue ball as he executes a devious shot. But burglars who go barging into private homes. ronsing gentlemen from their beds? In the that's not the English way.

5

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# Clinton and Yeltsin face up to Nato challenge

there is a good chance that the Helsinkî summit between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin starting today will bring real progress, even on the potentially explosive issue of Nato enlargement. Not every outstanding problem is likely to be solved, however, and on some points the two presidents may have to fall back on the time-bonoured diplomatic formula of "agreement to disagree".

Three subjects are expected to dominate the summit: European security, arms control and efforts to improve the Russian economy.

But it is Nato's determination to expand into central and eastern Europe that is likely to provoke the most emotional exchanges, leaving neither leader fully convinced that the other genuinely understands his position. For some months, Mr Yeltsin has

recognised the inevitability of Nato expansion and has concentrated on securing guarantees that the process will not endanger or isolate Russia. His latest demand, made last week, is an assurance that Nato will

not take in former Soviet republics specifically, the Baltic states and Publicly, it will prove difficult for Mr Clinton to accept this demand, since the Balts and Ukrainians would

be outraged at any suggestion that the United States was implicitly consigning them to a Russian sphere of influence. Privately, however, Mr Clinton should be able to give Mr Yeltsin some words of comfort. First, Nato has no immediate

plans to incorporate the Baltic states and will have its bands full for years with the business of absorbing the wants a legally binding treaty re-Czech Republic, Hungary and stricting the terms of Nato enlarge-Poland - the three leading candidates ment.

Security, arms and economy to dominate agenda in Helsinki. Tony Barber reports

for membership in 1999. Indeed, the US believes that the best scenario for the Baltic States would be inclusion in the first wave of European Union enlargement - although some EU countries beg to differ on that point. Second. Nato's strategy for Ukraine is not to make it a full member but to establish a special relationship of the kind the alliance is

6 It will be hard

to banish suspicion

that Nato is taking

advantage of

Russia's

weakness 9

trying to forge with Russia. There is,

as Mr Yeltsin knows, no question of

Nato basing nuclear weapons or al-

liance troops on the territory of

new member states, let alone the Baltic republics or Ukraine.

that Russia believes it won a pledge

from the US and Germany that, in

return for German unification in

1990, Nato would not expand at all

For that reason, Russia this time

into Eastern Europe.

However, Mr Yeltsin may object

Although the US rules out such commitment, the summit may produce a compromise. The treaty defining Nato's relationship with Russia would be approved by all the member states' parliaments and would be as "politically binding" as was the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on European security and co-operation. Even a deal along these lines may

not be enough to banish the Russian suspicion that Nato is taking advantage of Russia's temporary weakness to absorb a part of Europe from which Russia has been invaded many times in the past,

However, Mr Clinton is likely to stress that Nato sees Russia as a longterm partner and that, in any case, Russia's main security challenges in the coming century will not come from the West but from its southern Islamic neighbours and China.

To convince Mr Yeltsin of his good faith. Mr Clinton is expected to an- ian relations rather than cast them nounce support for Russian entry into deep freeze.

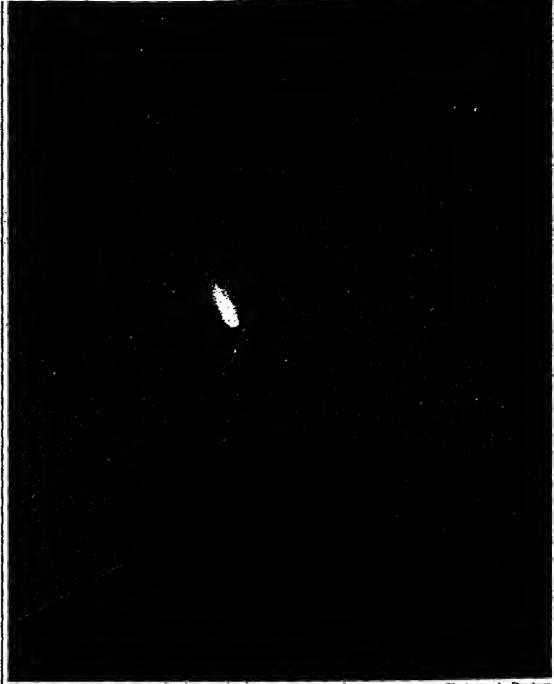
into important clubs such as the World Trade Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-op-eration & Development (OECD). He may also hold out the prospect of upgraded status for Russia at annual meetings of the G-7 group of leading industrial countries.

In return, however, Mr Yeltsin will have to promise a renewed commitment to economic reform, including the elimination of corruption, the stabilisation of the government budget, and the creation of proper legal (not to mention physical) conditions for foreign investors

The appointment of Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov to mastermind the latest phase of reform may have reassured Mr Clinton that Russia is back on course after a year of drift. The prospects for progress on ouclear arms cootrol at the summit are uncertain. Mr Yeltsin could promise a new effort to persuade the Russian parliament to rat-ify the 1993 Start-2 Treaty, which cuts the US and Russian nuclear arsenals: by about two-thirds.

But the parliament, dominated by Communists and Nationalists, is in oo mood to approve Start-2 as long as Nato insists on expansion. Since the US says that negotiations on a Start-3 Treaty cannot begin until the parliament ratifies Start-2, it is unclear whether much progress can be made in Helsinki.

However, neither leader has an interest in seeing the summit fail.
There will be bard bargaining in Helsinki, especially over Nato enlargement, but on balance the summit is likely to warm up US-Russ-



Heavenly body: Comet Hale-Bopp gleaming over Mt Fuji in Japan yesterday.



Jean Arthuis: to face formal investigation

# French finance chief in party funds scandal

John Lichfield

The French floance minister, Jean Arthuis, the man respon-sible for guiding France into the euro, is to be placed under for-mal investigation for the illegal

brought against the labour and has already created a critical social affairs minister. Jacques mass of public disgust with the Barrot, and two prominent former ministers.

If Le Canard is right (which it usually is) the French government's cup of embarrass-

establishment.

Over 500 national or local political and business figures have heeo coovicted, accused or placed under investigation in the

Prime Minister Alain Juppé. The mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, and his wife Xavière - close friends and associates of the Presideot - are under investigation for peddling political in-fluence. Several senior Socialist Other cases like that of the

African

leged, endemic corruption.
The case against Mr Arthuis and Mr Barrot involves the chaotic funding of the CDS -the Centre des Démocrates Sociaus - one of the fragments of the centre-right UDF federation, which is now in power with: the Gaullists. The party, which has now changed its name to Force Démocrate, has long been celebrated for having almost as : many high-profile political lead-

ers as grass-roots supporters. It.

into question in the early 1990s,

partly by the centre-right for tac-

tical-political reasons which:

is alleged that large sums were in 1992 did find that large sums paid by big business into a bank were passing inexplicably political funding which were tol-erated for years but were called transferred back to France for the party's use.

Le Canard says magistrates

euro, is to be placed under formal investigation for the illegal party, according to Le Canard Enchaine.

The mestigative newspaper reported yesterday that similar legal procedures — one step short of formal charges — will be

entire the about to run over into outright scandal and political party, according to Le Canard Enchaine.

The mestigative newspaper reported yesterday that similar legal procedures — one step short of formal charges — will be

entire the about to run over into outright scandal and political or personal into outright scandal and political or personal gain. Extremely serious financial chicanery, including the former. Socialist ministers, Bernard gain. Extremely serious financial chicanery, including the former. Socialist minister, socialist minister, socialist minister, ments may the about to run over into outright scandal and political or personal gain. Extremely serious financial chicanery, including the former. Socialist minister, socialist minister, socialist minister, socialist minister. Heading the former. Socialist minister, socialist minister. Heading the former crowledges convicted wolvestingly co prove his impartiality and to have been convinced that the inmaking political bay of the al-

quiries would come to nothing. He, with the others, now "improperly receiving company funds" and "trafficking in influence". In other words, it is alleged that the party was being slush-funded by business in the hope of gaining advantage when the party came to power. There is no suggestion at this stage of personal enrichment. However, an audit of the party's finances

through the CDS accounts. At the very least, it will be embarrassing for the French government to have its finance and economy minister embroiled in allegations of incompetent and improper funding of a political party. Le ie. Irony of ironies, it was Mr. Canard says that the formal warnings of investigation of the quartet of CDS leaders were due to go out in the next few days but advance warning of its scoop caused consternation in political and judicial circles, As a result, the letters of warning may be delayed but will go faces preliminary accusations of out, said the newspaper.

Mr Juppé will then face an awkward decision on whether to ask the two senior ministers to resign, pending the outcome of inquiries. This has become the norm in recent years but the Prime Minister's party colleague Mr Tiberi has refused to step down as mayor of Paris during

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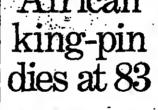
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John Lichfield

It would be difficult to believe that Jacques Foccart died a happy man. The policy of deep French eogagement in Africa, which he symbolised and operated from the shadows for the last four decades, has oever been so threatened as in the week of his death,

Mr Foccart, 83, who died early yesterday, was one of the last survivors of the de Gaulle era. For three presidents, and over 39 years, he ran France's Africa policy, often over the head of prime ministers and for-eign ministers. He was, until the last few weeks of his life, one of the main links between France and President Mobutu of Zaire. The fast-approaching collapse of the Mobutu regime, and possi-bly of Zaire itself, symbolises the defeat of a policy which be cre-ated and which the present French government is seeking, rather uncertainly, to replace.

During his periods of service for Presidents de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou, and for Prime Minister and then President Jacques Chirac, Mr Foccart oever beld a senior formal position, other than, briefly, secretary general to the Presi-deocy for African affairs. But, during these periods, any France-assisting event in Fran-cophone Africa would be attributed to the hidden hand of "La Focque". Occasionally, Mr Foccart emerged from the shadows to deny the unearthly powers attributed to him. "I do not ruo oetworks which do oot exist with money I don't have from companies which have oo be ing," he said famously in 1982. Obituary, page 16

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# Big Apple's rich pickings leave sour taste for the city's poor



nare toppers: Traders on the New York Stock Exchange, which is booming, though the trickle-down effect appear to be very widespread

5

3

New York is boom city. I know this, because you cannot move for far wallets on Fifth Avence, where the likes of Tiffany and Gucci are reporting record takings. I know it because friends cannot afford the tiniest apartments, for which rents are halfway to the Moon. And I know it because the more inare to get a table.

that I stare down on from The shots from the Depression. are cascading with dollars. The Brooklyn, arrived at 7am and rise in profile-bes are the rise in profile-bes are t source is Wall Street, where the was told to go home by 11am. rise in profits has more or less Laid off last month from his job

 ← They keep telling us the economy is getting better, but better for who?  $\mathcal{I}$ 

With profits come bonnses. One securities firm boss was reported this week to have taken nome \$33m (£20m).

'and

So how to explain the scene that greets me one morning on my walk from Grand Central Station to the office? A queue of people, almost exclusively the city's wider economy rose black and hunched against a bit- and fell as Wall Street's did. Bad of people, almost exclusively ter wind, is snaking around all times on the stock market sides of two city blocks on the would quickly east a pall over east side of Madison Avenue. the whole of New York, But

Crashes of this kind - police offer a rough count of 5,000 occasionally occur when a true celebrity is in the oeighbourhood. But this is something different. There is no exchemeot in faces here but rather

grimness, even desperation. It is a queue for work. Its head is at the entrance of the Roosevelt hotel. On its way to being returned to its long-lost splendour, the monolithic Roosevelt reopens next month. On

#### NEW YORK DAYS

city tabloids advertising jobs, 600 of them. Eveo the hotel's spokesman, Ted Knighton, confessed to being astonished by the queue that started forming at 3am. 'I expected a big turnsane the prices are oo a restau- out, but nothing like this." Take rant's menu, the less likely yoo away the worn trainers and the over-stuffed parkas and it might These Manhattan canyons have been one of those snap-

matched the jaw-dropping tra- as a security officer, he is sur-jectory of the stock market. prised by nothing. Every time it is like this. You get to the front and they say come back to-morrow. To me, 30 years ago it was quite different. You could get jobs. Now, I don't know what's happened. Just too many

people in this town, I guess." See how it really is in New York. Not good. Not boom city. For most, those like Mr Brun-son who do not have bonus-paying jobs and do not have loft addresses in the hippest corners of Soho and Tribeca, the struggie goes on and is apparently getting worse.

Last year New York City reported 9.9 per cent unemployment, much higher than the national rate of 5.2 per cent and one of the highest city rates.

· Underlying this is a new economic disjuncture that is special to New York. It used to be that when good times returned and Wall Street celebrated, it was never long before all the five boroughs joined the party.

It was a relationship most vividly demonstrated by rates of growth in personal income. In previous Wall Street booms, the rate for the whole of New York City would consistently ontpace that of the nation, while in bust periods New York

growth rates would lag. Statistics for 1989-1995 show Monday it placed a notice in the how the formula has been shat-

tered. According to the state's figures, the rate of growth in real income for workers in the security industry was an astonishing 42.4 per cent. For those not employed on Wall Street it

was 3.8 per cent. What happened? There are

various explanations. Much of that honus money, for example, does not get spent in New York but in the suburbs of Con-necticut and New Jersey. And in Aspen, Colorado, Some even argue that, in spite of the hordes on Fifth Avenue and in the

BMW showrooms, the hig-swinging-dicks of the 1990s are clusively white-collar. The lenot into spending in the way of their 1980s predecessors.

More important, however. is the changing nature of the se-curities workforce. In 1987 Wall Street employed 163,000 people, compared with 150,000 togions of lower-carning clerical workers who used to keep the brokerage houses from drowning beneath paper have been

supplanted by computers. Another sector of the New York economy experiencing a day. But in addition to that, become of its own is the tourist

and hotel industry. Otherwise, hotels like the Roosevelt would not be getting facelifts, while others are rising hrand-new from fresh foundations. And this queue would not be here.

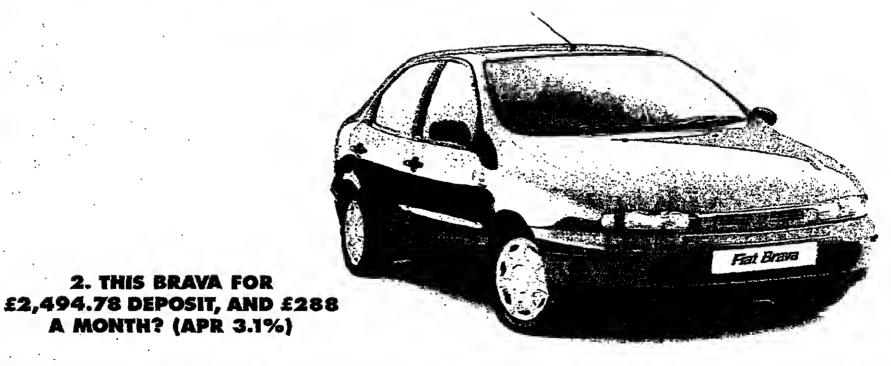
It is hardly surprising that some in the crowd voice the mantra that in this economy it seems like it is the few who get

poorer. "They keep telling us the economy is getting hetter hut hetter for who?" asked Florentina Melchor, also from Brooklyn, and unemployed. "For most of us it is just getting

David Usborne

# WHICH FIAT BRAVA **WOULD YOU PREFER?**





#### King Hussein appoints new prime minister

King Hussein of Jordan dismissed Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti and replaced him with a veteran former premier who signed Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with

After a special cabinet meeting, Mr Kabariti said he was offering his resignation to the king, who had picked Abdul-Salam al-Majali. 71, to form the new government. Mr Kabariti suggested his removal was connected to the recent tensions with Israel. Routers - Amma Reuters - Amman

#### Arms cache found in Belgium Police seized eight tonnes of arms, ammunition and

explosives - including mortars - in a raid on an arms dealer oear the southern Belgian town of Mons. The media speculated about possible links to gun running, an attack on two gendarmes in Bastogne in 1995 and a series of attacks last year on security vans. Reuters - Brussels

#### Greek minister in Macedonia

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos arrived for a surprise visit in Macedonia, the first time any Greek government official came to this former Yugoslav republic since it gained independence. Mr Pangalos is touring Balkan countries that border Albania.

#### **Uighurs face execution**

The spokesman for the United National Revolutionary Front of East Turkestan, a Uighur exile group, said two Uighur religious students arrested over rioting last month in China's unstable north-west province of Xinjiang face Reuters - Almaty

#### North Korea fears anarchy

North Korea faces anarchy because of an acute food shortage, a South Korean newspaper quoted Pyongyang leader Kim Jong-il as saying. Mr Kim held Comminist Party and government officials responsible for "a state of anarchy being created because of food problems today", Reuters - Seoul the Chasun Ilbo said.

#### Little relief in lift convictions

Singapore authorities claim to have dramatically reduced urinating in lifts. Only 14 people were convicted of the offence last year, compared with 40 the previous year. For more than 10 years, some lifts have been equipped with sensors that stop the carriage if they detect urine, trapping AP - Singapore the culprit until police arrive.

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# **Jacques Foccart**

The centenary of General de Gaulie's hirth was celebrated in Paris from 19 to 24 November 1990 by a series of meetings which attracted large audiences. locluded were many wellknown figures who did not need to display their names on the lapels of their jackets, as everyone was supposed to. But one label attracted attention mingled with surprise. It revealed that the small, genial figure with high complexion and shining bald pate was none other than Jacques Foccart, the man of the shadows, de Ganlle's closest and most

mysterious adviser. It was he who had masterminded French action in Africa and who had created and controlled his own intelligence network there. After de Gaulle's resignation he had been retained, after some hesitation, by President Pompidou, hut neither Giscard nor Minerrand had

him during his brief period as Prime Minister, 1986-88).

In 1990, given the circumstances, and at the age of 77, it was reasonable to suppose that his active career was over. But in 1995, when Jacques Chirac was elected President of the Republic, one of his first acts was to bring Foccart out of his retirement and to install him as special adviser in the Elysée. In the summer of 1996, although very ill, Foccart demonstraled his continuing activity and influence by arranging for Boh Denard, a mercenary soldier who had organised an unsuccessful coup in the Comoro Islands, to be released from prison.

Foccart belonged to the socalled "Academy of Gaullism". He was one of the seven or eight men who gathered around de Gaulle at the great momeots, such as the beginnings of the new Republic in June 1958, and who were allowed to follow made use of his services (al-though Chirac had consulted Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises in

November 1970. Yet he was unlike his companions. He was the son of a man who had a banana husiness and who had married

a Creole in Guadeloupe. His youth was speot hetween Guadeloupe and Mayenne in France and his education was rudimentary. He oever passed his baccalaureat. During the Second World

War, he became a sergeant in The Freoch army and after the armistice of 1940 he joined the Resistance, soon adhering to de Gaulle's teadership. After de Gaulle's resignation in January 1946. Foccart, who had returned to his business interests, was one of those who believed in the necessity of organising his return to power. He became, along with André

Malraux and Jacques Soustelle, amongst the first to urge the cre-ation of a Gaullist political party, subsequently the Rally of the French People (the RPF). In 1954, when this party was in full decline, he took on the thankless

job of its Secretary-General. For many years, he had looked after the party's finances, details of which remain secret.

It is not clear what role Foccart played in any of the socalled "13 plots" of 1958 which led to the insurrection in Algiers and to the collapse of the Fourth Republic. But he knew what was going on and he saw to it that the General was fully informed. Once the Fifth Republic was established, Foccart revealed another difference between him and the other leading Gaullists. His ambition was strictly limited. He did not want to become a deputy or a minister (it was said that de Gaulle once offered him the Ministry of the Interior). He wished to remain de Gaulle's adviser on African and Malgasy affairs and to keep him informed oo geoeral intelligence matters.

The General was determined that France should continue to play a leading role in suhharan Africa, either through a



when that failed, through continued contacts with African leaders. In this way Foccart became involved with the complexities of African politics, and as a leading agent in this period of neo-colonisation, his negotiating and bargaining led to the rise and fall of individual African leaders and to establishing the ori-entations of African diplomacy.

Foccart's competence was beyond question. It was he who briefed French ambassadors when they were appointed to African states. He saw de Gaulle whenever he wanted, sometimes every day, and, having gained the confidence of the leaders of French-speaking Africa, he acted as an intermediary between the General and them. Inevitably, rumours grew about his influence and the oature of his activity. It was one thing to make Albert Bongo President of Gabon, but when certain French firms gained lucrative contracts with African states, or when African leaders were kidnapped, or murdered, it was asked if Foccart were responsible. His bead was said to be surrounded by a

halo of manipulation. And it was reported that his activities were not confined to the African continent. He was said to have had Couve de Murville followed. Extremists from the Algerian settlers who were on the run hlamed Foccart when they

were discovered and arrested. After de Gaulle's resignation, Alain Poher, the President of the Senate who temporarily replaced him, complained that Foccart was having his family shadowed as well as himself.

In 1994, he took what was for him the unprecedented step of speaking about himself to a journalist, Philippe Gaillard. One volume of the conversations was published in 1995 and another was promised. Here he presented himself as the victim of journalistic fable and of gossip. But his denial that he had been an all-powerful figure working in secret was made less effective by the casual man-ner in which it was made and by his refusal to speak about certain topics ("the archives will tell you" is a phrase that adds spice to mystery). It was evident that

Pompidou. Edouard Balladus (then Prime Minister) and acques Chirac (theo Mayor of Paris), both candidates in the election, were present in the Church on the Ile Saint Louis. At the end of the ceremony, Balladur was the first to leave. When Chirac was leaving, Foccart said in a loud voice: There goes the next President." He did not say that he had arranged it, but the implication was there.

Then, walking painfully on crutches, he left the church and went straight to the television cameras that were waiting. One thought of Colonel Lawrence,

backing shyly into the limelicht. Douglas Johnson

Jacques Guillaume Louis Marie Koch (Jacques Foccart), businessman and politician: born Ambrières-le Grand, Mayenne 31 Foccart eojoyed his legeod.
In April 1995, three weeks before the ballot of the presideotial election, Foccart attended a mass in memory of Georges

August 1913; Secretary-General for African and Malagasy Affairs at the Elysée 1958-74; nuarried 1939 Isabelle Fenoglio (deceased): died Paris 19 March 1997.

would mark his finest volumes

of the 1980s. In the first of these later sequences, Wakeful in the

Sleep of Time, the poet jour-neyed from his nonconformist

radicalism to generate a series of profound meditations on Camolic iconography of the Virgin and Salvanian and Sal

gin as in "Notre Dame de Heas":

Grant me your triumph over ice falling among jagged rocks. Be where t arrive when I've found the

way. Teach me to know why, lady of the

Towards the eod of Wakeful

another note was struck, that of

a historicising sense of locale

which would cootinue through

his next book, Local History

(1985). Landscape, history and

personal experience are meld-ed in fluid and exciting ways, as

memorably with the images of the reclaiming of the Lin-colnshire fens io "Somercotes

Clouds, gales are free Though in pomp men think to buy space-time with legal words. Out of this evil, nobility and folly

May havens remain to reach un-chartable sea,

In 1987 followed a third ma-

jor achievement, The European

Letters. Here intense persocal

feeling was married to an epic

historical sweep over a cooti-

nent torn between the sufferings

peace. In 1993 the University

Salzburg paid him the tribute of

producing Dolphins and Out-laws, a broad selection of his po-

ems, and With Planetary Eyes.

translations from Saint-Pol

Roux and Pierre Emmanuel.

years, displayed similar qualities of catholicity and engagement. So long as poets shared a com-

mitment to the larger destiny of

poetry and a serious concero

their very various work was

welcome in its pages. Editing

displayed again Brian Merrikin Hill's combination of moral

and artistic passion with a

deep desire for encounter, for

understanding and relating to

other people, other visions. It

was above all this combination

of idealism and humanity which

underpinged, and unified, all

his diverse achievements as

teacher, editor, translator and

with its crafts and disciplines.

The journal Pennine Platform, carried on with unflagging energy and persistence over 20

of war and the aspiration to

Haven":

#### Erik de Mauny

Erik de Mauny was BBC Radio's correspondent in a number of countries but was best known for his reporting from Moscow. He was posted there in 1963 as the first resideot correspondent after the censorship restrictions in the Soviet Union were eventually lifted. He had a London degree in Russian which gave colour and depth to his despatches. He had a great zest for debate and argument, as well as a lively sense of humour. which made him good company

and enlivened his reports. In 1964 he covered the fall of Khrushchev in Moscow. The same year he met there Kim Philby, whom he had known in Beirut hefore Philby flew to Moscow and acknowledged his life of spying for the Soviet Union. It was typical of de Mauny that he stuck faithfully to the understanding that this was a social occasion and not an interview. In his book Russian Prospect (1969), he acknowledged that he had kept pace with Philby's drinking and left in a condition that made getting home difficult,



De Mauny's French grandparents had settled in Britain. and both his parents were professional musicians. His father. a violinist and a conductor, emigrated to New Zealand in 1922. Erik enlisted in the NZ Medical Corps in 1940 and in 1942 teoded the wounded at the Battle of Alamein. Later he caught severe isundice in Tobruk which made him unfit for active service. He was transferred to General Freyberg's GHQ in Cairo where he ran the French section of the radio monitoring service. After the D-Day landings he was transferred to Italy, where he interrogated German prisoners.

After a year at Victoria University in New Zealand and an honours degree in Russian at the School of Slavonic Studies in London, de Mauny joined the news section of the BBC in Bush House. John Crawicy, then a colleague on the news desk, said, "I thought of him as an author who had become a journalist rather than the other way

round. Indeed he was at home in the literary world, publishing several books and translations and reviewing regularly for the Tinues Literary Supplement."

He transferred to the domestic radio news as a roving Foreign Duty Editor and in 1956 he reported from Vienna on the effect Khrushchev's devastating attack oo Stalin's reputation and the "cult of personality" had had on Eastern Europe. His first post as a foreign correspondent was also Vienna. From there he moved on to the Middle East, hased in Beirut, and then to Washington where he was number two to Douglas Stuart, He also went over to Cuba to report oo the situation following the United States' spectacular unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro's regime, the Bay of

Pigs disaster. When I went on a BBC mission to Moscow io 1956 we discussed the possibility of stationing a correspondent permaneotly in the Soviet capital. We made it clear that this could not be done until censorship of oulgoing despatches was lifted. This happened in 1963 and de Mauny, with his experience and his excellect Russian was the obvious choice for the post. After a sixyear spell in Paris he returned for a second tour of duty in Moscow. His last six years in the BBC were back as a Foreign Duty Editor and theo working for The World Tonight on Radio 4.

De Mauny was married Egyptian. They had no children and in 1969 The marriage was both dissolved and annulled, allowing de Mauny, who had converted to Roman Catholicism, to marry Elizabeth, the fifth of the seveo daughlers of Commander Roheri Tattoo Bower, the Conservative MP for Cleveland. She had also worked in the BBC and previously for Reuters and the Foreign Office. They had a soo and daughter, both boro in France, which is where they first lived after his retirement. Later they moved to Lancaster, where he wrote his as yet unpublished memoirs.

Leonard Miall Erik Cecil Leon de Maury, author

and broadcaster: born London 17 September 1920; staff, BBC External Services News 1949-55. Foreign Duty Editor 1955-58, Correspondent in Vienna and Balkans 1958, Middle East 1958-60, Washington 1960-63, Moscow 1963-66, Paris 1966-72, Moscow 1972-74. Forcign Duty Editor 1974-77. Special Correspondent 1977-80; married 1950 Denvse Aghion (marriage dissolved 1969), second Elizabeth Bower (one son, one daughter); died Lancaster 18 March 1997.



#### Walter Steggles

Walter Steggles was the last known survivor of the East London Group of artists, a painter with a distinct way of depicting cially that of East Anglia. He was a core member of the Bowbased group which remains almost unknown to the art world hut which between the wars achieved a string of exhibitions, gained hundreds of inches of press coverage and attracted the interest of notable collectors.

Like other group members, Steggles had oo strong immediate artistic antecedeots. He was born in London in 1908, soo of another Walter Steggles, who managed a high-class boot and shoe business in the Straod: Sir Thomas Beecham the conduc-tor, the Russian bass Chaliapin and the wife of the painter Sir John Lavery were regular clients.

His mother, Annie, an optimistic woman who survived to her hundredth year, took up painting at 73 and in her eighties travelled to Paris and elsewhere with her son to find subjects. Like him, she maiotained a keen interest in .e Stock Exchange, and he recalled that "her every transac-tion showed a profit. She and her friend Mrs Harrison would discuss the Footsic for hours." There were thru sisters and a vounger brother, Harold, who became a partner in a firm of solicitors and another member of the East Londoo Group. Waller set the pace in ohtaining formal art tuition by at-Genge at Bethnal Green Men's Institute, which were taken over in 1925 by John Cooper. When Cooper moved his class-es to the Bow and Bromley Evening Institute, Walter weot with him. The Bolton-born Cooper, who had studied at Bradford, the Slade and in Paris, taught at the Central School and was about 30 when Walter met him. "He was probably the best teacher I ever knew. He would oot impose his ideas, always finding a good point to remark

Cooper attracted teaching talent to Bow. Steggles remembered William Coldstream, Rodrigo Moynihan and Gerald Ososki at the institute in the period before the Second World War. Walter Sickert, whose "useful advice has heen constantly with me", turned up several times. Steggles's lifelong friend Lilian Hawthorn, who with her hushand Elwio was a notable member of the group. recalled Sickert's eccentric dress on such occasions. Once he held forth dressed like a golfer in plus-fours and diamondpatteroed socks, so that "the

on. He would say: 'You are try-

ing 10 imitate someone not as

good as yourself."

piris in the class began to have fits of giggles and had to not their hands over their mouths".

The first exhibition of the

t Loodoo Art Cluh group was initially known, was held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1928. The philanthronist Sir Charles (later Viscount) Wakefield launched a fund to frame work by those who "by their pecuniary positioo [some were out of employment] could not provide this for themselves". In 1929 the group transferred to the Lefevre Galleries in King Street, St James's, with Sickert a contributor. Lefevre was to host a run of group shows until 1936, in addition holding solo exhibitions for members. The catalogues had introductions by leading art critics, and oational oewspapers fouod good copy in the fact that a casual labourer, a hasket-maker. shop assistants and a windowcleaner and one exhibitor "too noor to pay his hus fares" were showing in the West End.

Encouraged by the dealer Colnaghi, Steggles went to West Ham Technical College to learn engraving and etching, but the slump in the print market around 1930 thwarted that ambition. He continued painting and with his hrother Harold shared a show at Lefevre in 1938. From 1939 to 1943, the year John Cooper died, he Calne, Wiltshire 5 March 1997.

studied at the Ceotral with Kirkland Jamiesoo, F.J. Porter and Bernard Meninsky, By oow he had exhibited widely in ritain and ahroad, hut he would never seek a ooe-man show. The Coolemporary Art Society acquired three of his pictures and Manchester City Art Gallery has two.

Like his hrother, Walter

Steggles had during most of his life to paint while earning a living. For some years he was employed in the drawing office of the shipping company Furness Withy, during the war working for the Ministry of Transport. The collector Sir Edward Marsh had offered to find him a position as a war artist, "but I didn't want to draw war scenes". After retirement in 1967, Steggles was able to conceotrate oo painting. He and his mother moved frequeotly, speeding periods in Cookham, Winsley near Bath, Scole in Norfolk and Bradfordon-Avon, Wiltshire. The range of interesting subjects widened.

Steggles remembered Sickert's dictum: "A picture must have a 'Look here!' quality. He was right. If you don't attract people, why should they bother to look?"

David Buckman

#### Brian Merrikin Hill

Brian Merrikin Hill was, in the last decades of his life, widely valued as a poet, a translator of poetry and as long-time editor of the poetry magazine Pennine Platform. Although cot inclined to seek fame, he was regarded as a compeer by poets as dis-tinguished as Kathleen Raine and David Gascoyne. The Blakean title of his 1984 book Wakeful in the Sleep of Time gives some indication of how seriously be viewed the poet's vocation.

Yet there had been another life of achievement too. Indeed, although Eighteen Poems had been published as early as 1947, Hill's oext 30 years were to be largely dedicated to education. The son of a radical Methodist minister, he had, af-ter leaving Oxford in 1939, de-clared himself a conscientious objector and eveotually become a teacher of French in the progressive independent school of Abbotsholme, in

Imhued with the twin ideals of educational experiment and the healing of social divisions he came in 1948 to teach English at Wennington School, at Wetherby, in Yorkshire. The school, with its combination of shared, communal effort and exploratory educational methods. its mix of children from liber-al, middle-class homes and children sent by local authorities because of family or behavioural problems, proved an ideal seting for him. More significantly, he became known as an inspiring teacher, one who was spoken of as enabling his students to believe in their own efforts and as opening many literary doors to them. Sadly. by the 1970s, when he had become head, economic pressures were increasing oo schools such as Wennington, and under his successor the school succumbed in 1975.

Hill's career as a poet was relaunched by the publication in 1977 of Two Poems of Pilgrimage. Characteristically: the pilgrimage was both geographical and spiritual, a trait which



Brian Merrikin Hill, poet and teacher: born 6 January 1917; married 1955 Irene Salkerd (one son, one daughter); died Harrogate 19 February 1997.

It was therefore clear that his

Lordship, in exercising the court's inhereot jurisdiction,

had power to direct that C re-

main as an in-patient at the clin-

ic until discharged by its

medical director or until further

order of the court. That pow-

er included the authorisation of

her detention in the clinic for

the purposes of treatment.

Moreover, since her adher-

ence to the clinic's regime was

an integral part of her treat-

ment programme, his Lordship

had no doubt that the court also

had power to authorise the use

#### Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

WALKER: On 26 February, to Mette (nee Christensen) and Tun, a son, Jesper Charles, and a daughter, Pernille Katrine. For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen, fatten, tests the Royal College of Muses, resident the Pounce of Muses. President the Pounce of Test at many a presentation on the side of the Pounce of the Pounce of Muses, President the Pounce of Iron at most a presentation on the side of the Pounce o

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming marriages

Captain P. S. Comeron RM and Miss A. J. Nash

The engagement is announced be tween Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Cameron, of Solihull. West Midlands, and Annabel, daughter of Mr Antony Nash MBE, of East Butterleigh, Devon, and Mrs Martin Jacoby, of Cadiz, Spain.

Birthdays Sir William Asscher, consultant

physician, Si George's Hospital, London, 66: The Very Rev William Baddeley, former Rector, St James's, Piccadilly, 85; Dr Wendy Baron, Director. Government Art Collection, 60; Mr Anthony Biond, publisher 69: Mr Timothy Brooks, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 68; Sir Arnold Burgen, former Master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 75: The Right Rev Mario Joseph Conti, Roman Catholic Bishop of Aberdeen, 63; Mr Douglas French MP, 53; Dr Ian J. Graham-Bryce, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 60: Mr William Hurt, actor, 47; Mr John Joubert, composer, 70; Dame Vera Lynn, singer, 80; M Pierre Messmer, inrmer French prime minister, 81; Sir David Montgomery. former chairman, the Forestry Commission, 66; Mr Brian

Mulroney, former prime minister of Canada, 58: Mr Jeremy Nichols,

Headmaster, Stowe School, 54; Mr Phillip Oppenheim MP, 41; Dr John Rae, former Headmaster, Westminster School, 66; Mr Greg Searle rower, 25; Mr Tim Yeo MP, 52.

Anniversaries

Births: Ovid, Roman poet, 43 BC; Henrik Ibsen, playwright, 1828. Deaths: Sir Isaac Newton, scientist, 1727; Brendan Behan, writer, 1964. On this day: the foundation stone of Dartmoor Prison, Devon, was laid 1806; Marble Arch, formerly at Buckingham Palace, was unveiled at its present site in London, 1851. Today is the Feast Day of St Cuthbert, St Herbert St Martin of Braga. St Photina and Martyrs of Mar Saba.

Dinners Royal College of Anaesthetists

Mr Siephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, and Mr Gerald Malone. Minister for Health, attended the Anniversary Dinaer of the Royal Coltege of Anaesthetists held yesterday evening at Plaisterers' Hall, London EC2. Professor Cedric Prys-Roberts. Gareth Roberts, Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, was the speaker. Professor A. Angel delivered the Frederic Hev. 11 Lecture beforehand. The President presented the College Medal to Dr S.M. Lyons and the FelCourt may order anorexic to be detained for treatment

clinic, she would oot eat.

gether, the family was severe-

C lived at home. Her elder

brother had sexually abused ber

a dysfunctional family, she had

But although C came from

over a substantial period.

medical treatment); Family Division (Mr Justice Wall) 5 March 1997

The court had power, when exercising its inherent parens patriae jurisdiction in relation to a 16-year-old child, to authorise and direct the detention of the child in a specified institution for the purposes of medical treatment Mr Justice Wall, granting

an application by the plaintiff local authority, ruled that the first defendant, referred to only as "C", should be detained at a private clinic specialising in the treatment of eating disorders in young people and that she should undergo medical treatment for anorexia whether or not she

consected. Allson Ball QC (Christopher Hinde. Hackney) for the local authority; Roderic Wood OC (Bindman & Partners) for C: David G.P. Tumer (Goodman Ray) for the parents: James Munby QC (Official Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

LAW REPORT 20 March 1997 Mr Justice Wall said C, who

accommodated by the local was 16, suffered from anorexauthority, although she had ia nervosa. The clinic where she previously been detained in was being treated was run on another hospital under the boarding-school lines. Its med-Mental Health Act. The clinic ical director regarded C's eowas cot a mental hospital and forced presence in the clinic its philosophy was inimical to under an order of the court as the compulsory admission of an essectial component of her children under the Mental treatment. If C was not in the Health Act. C's eating disorders began in

C disputed the need for an October 1994 and she was diagnosed as suffering from anorexia in July 1995. She had order, saying she agreed with the treatment she was receiving and was content to stay at been admitted and discharged the clinic on a voluntary basis. from the clinic a oumber of C's parents supported the times since theo and had freclinic's approach. Though they quently abscooded. In Dewere married and lived tocember 1996 the consultant psychiatrist and the medical diy dysfunctional. None of the rector of the clinic made it clear other four children apart from they would not readmit her

without an order of the court. la Re W (a minor) (Medical treatment: Court's jurisdiction) [1993] Fam 64 and 81, the never been taken into care or decision, under the court's in- do so.

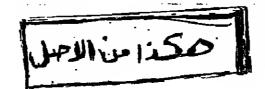
herent parens patriae jurisdic-tion, to authorise the medical treatment of an anorectic 16year-old girl without her coosent. The judgments in that case did not deal specifically with the power to detain the minor in a specialist unit, though the existence of such a power could readily be inferred from the fact that the judge authorised W's removal to and her treatment at the clinic. It was argued for C that

since she consented to the treatment, her detention was not an essential part of it, and accordingly the inherent jurisdiction was being used solely for the purpose of deprivation of liberty.

His Lordship disagreed. On the evidence, C's detention at the clinic was an essential component of her treatment and without it she would not be treated. If C were free to leave Court of Appeal upheld a the clinic, she would probably

of reasonable force, if necessary, to detain C at the clinic. In exercising the court's jurisdiction, section I of the Childreo Act 1989 applied and the welfare of C was the paramount consideration. In his Lordship's judgment, having regard to all the circumstances. the treatment proposed was in C's best interests and the order sought by the local authority should be granted.

Pani Magrath, Bartister



# Mr Major's vote-chasing boom too far

ritain is booming" - it's offi-cial. The Prime Minister said so today. But not in an unreasonable way," he was quick to add. There's an interesting thought: it's a reasonable, manicured, well-behaved sort of boom that just happens, wholly coincidentally, to come immediately before an election. A modest boom. A John-and-Ken sort of boom - a boom that should not be compared to the wicked booms in days of old.

We are not wholly convinced. Yet Mr Major and Mr Clarke have a difficult balance to strike. On the one hand sceptical voters need convincing that they are right to claim things are looking up.
While Mr Major proclaims Britain's economy to be the envy of Europe, Mr Blair whispers in voters' ears that, on the contrary, we are slithering down the international league table fast.

But at the same time, the Prime Minister can't talk booming Britain up too far. The ghosts of serious economists, central hankers and voters with long memories are flapping around him, warning that the boom-bust machine has been stoked up for electoral purposes before. So what is the truth? In fact, that boom the Prime Minister is so proud of is a worrying prospect. Vote-chasing is damaging the Government's manage-ment of the economy once more. Had there been no election, we believe inter-

est rates would now be higher. But peering beyond the immediate

debate about interest rates and tax levels, the Conservatives should be accorded credit for their economic reforms of the past two decades. Labour is right that fundamental weaknesses remain; nevertheless in many ways the Conservatives have substantially improved the way Britain does business. They have deregulated markets that were over-regulated and traditionalist. reformed the labour market, embraced the free-trade global economy and privatised once-staggering state leviathans.

As a result, according to the Conservatives, the economy is in its best state since bread was first sliced: inflation is low, jobs growth is high, taxes are falling and our long, slow, relative economic decline has been reversed. The boom-bust cycle, they maintain, has been replaced by steady, sensible economic management.

This confidence is premature. We heard something similar in the late Eighties. Now we need only listen to the Bank of England. Yesterday it emerged that the Governor, Eddie George, told Ken Clarke last month that demand was rising at an unsustainable rate: interest rates should go up immediately. But the Chancellor refused to budge, Wages suddenly shot up with the sharpest acceleration since the Seventies. House prices are spiralling - especially in the South-east. These are troubling signs that we do indeed face the familiar pre-election boom that we could pay for later on.



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To be fair to Mr Clarke, he hasn't strayed too far from the mainstream of economic opinion. He has been a success at No 11. The trouble is that the mainstream, as always, has been broad, and Mr Clarke's economic fellow-travellers look as though they may have been wrong. Consummate politician as always, the Chancellor has simply pushed things as far as be could credibly get away with, at least before the election. It now looks as though he is pushing just that little bit too far. As a result, we may be about to lose our historic opportunity to change attitudes to inflation once and for all. Rates should go up. Better still, taxes

should go up - that would subdue consumer demand, and fill an overly large hole in the public finances too. What a shame neither Labour nor the Conservarives have the guts to argue for this as part of a platform of economic prudence and responsibility. Best of all, they should introduce that tax increase by abolishing mortgage tax relief, thereby calming the housing market that has such a terrible tendency to exaggerate the swings in consumer demand.

The British Tory legacy is patchy, and requires that kind of toughness to preserve it. True, many of the Conservative economic reforms, opposed by Labour

place across the Channel and to that extent we are indeed "the envy (Michael Heseltine) of reforming Continental economists. But to claim we are zooming ahead of our partners, that we are in clover while they stagger through the nettles, is taking things too far.

For a start, Britain is booming because we came out of recession earlier than our colleagues. And we achieved that because we devalued against Germany, just as the Germans were starting to face up to the burden of unification. Moreover, Labour has an extremely powerful point, when it argues that one persistent weakness in the British economy remains: low skills.

Why have wages suddenly picked up. despite the fact that so many people are still out of work? Because those in work can afford to push their earnings upwards, knowing that the unemployed don't have the skills or qualifications to usurp their positions. Why are some people stuck out of work for years at a time, or trapped into cycles of low-paid temporary work and spells on the dole. while new jobs are being created all the time? In part, because those at the bottom of the heap are too poorly edu-cated to compete and climb the ladder.

Mr Major wants voters to reward his party for those improvements it has achieved, and to trust him to deliver the reforms needed in future. So he should be calming the boom, not pretending

and now vindicated, have yet to take that this time it is house-trained. But we are not surprised at his relaxed view. His real worry must be that voters will cheerily take the positive legacy of Conservative government for granted, and seek someone else to handle the problems the Tories failed to solve.

#### A question for the fee-payers

s a school with high-ability children Lihat gets good exam results necessarily hetter than one with helowaverage-ability children which gets medium results? No: in the latter the head and teachers may actually be more effective educators. In their inspections of state schools, Chris Woodhead and his colleagues from the Office of Standards in Education have shown themselves resistant to the idea that schools are best assessed according to that kind of "value added". But now, having inspected the teams that monitor private schools. Ofsted seems to have changed its tune. Some private schools ought to be doing a lot better - given the quality of the children they recruit. Paying parents may be happy enough but they ought to be aware that some of the schools they support are merely coasting.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Our national wealth was squandered

Sir: There is a simple question to put to the Conservative Party before the election: where has all the money gone?

No government has had more income than the Conservatives in the past 18 years; revenues from North Sea oil: proceeds of sales of national assets; indirect taxes increased more than any reduction in direct taxes; an alarming increase in the national debt. All this during a period when cuts in expenditure are a government

husbandry of public finances. In reality they have squandered our national wealth on the costs of the unemployment and social dislocation created by their policies, wasting a unique opportunity to rebuild public services and to invest for the future.

theory of economics which failed despite enthusiastic application in Let Thatcherite monetarism be consigned to the wilderness with isms which have caused such distress in this century, and let its proponents be removed from any further conduct of the nation's

affairs. ALAN KNELL

Sir: There must be quite a lot of Labour MPs feeling uneasy with the support of The Sun and its proprietor, Rupert Murdoch .The party of the people is now indistinguishable from the Conservative Party.

Regardless of whether Mr Major wins on I May, the truth is that the Conservatives have so profoundly altered political expectation in this country, to such an extent that anything other than free-market capitalism is considered suspiciously socialist, that who occupies No 10 makes not a blind

bit of difference. No choice masquerading as free choice: no wonder Mr Murdoch is DAVID JAMES Oxford

Sir. I have never before voted in Britain. As an expatriate American I felt I hadn't the moral right, though I have had the legal right

for many years.
So I stood by and watched while the Conservatives brought fresh ideas and much-needed reforms during the Eighties. The ideas ran out and the reforms went too far, and still I watched. Over the years the Tories presided over an endless series of national fiascos, and I stood by in mounting dishelief that the people of Britain could accept such misgovernment.

The "New Labour, New Danger" campaign was the final straw, a desperate move by a party which had become corrupt and directionless. I immediately went out and registered to vote. On I May I will vote Labour, ROLF WALTER LUCHS Finahorn, Grampian

Sir\*: What Pascal Smart and millions like him obviously have not considered by refusing to vote ("I'll not vote - it won't change a thing", 18 March) is that they can register their feelings of having no faith in any of the parties in a simple manner: the spoilt bailot

boast. So where have they spent so much money? They claim to be the party of thrift and careful

All this in pursuit of a simplistic the most favourable circumstances. Marxism, fascism, and all the other

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

May, collect their ballot papers and mark them: "I have no faith in any of these candidates." The spoilt ballot paper records an opinion. It is a statement that will be published in every newspaper following the results. It is better to vote for nothing than not at all. JONATHAN BEDFORD

Sir: The article "Movers and shakers line up to support main parties" (18 March) declared: "The chief executive of Nissan, Ian Gibson, showed his preference when he argued that Labour's support for the Social Chapter could damage the competitiveness of British companies." I was then listed as "coming out for Major".

At no point in my evidence to the

Education and Employment Select Committee did I comment on Labour's support for the Social Chapter. What I said was: "The Social Chapter, so far as it exists at present, ie legislation and after, has zero effects on us." I added: "The . reason the Social Chapter gives rise to concern is not because of any present standards it has enacted but because, as I understand, it is essentially enabling legislation." I emphasised that business needs to assess risk and to minimise it wherever possible. These are views that I have expressed for a number

of years. The inference of The Independent's article is that Nissan has expressed a preference for one political party over another. Nissan's position remains unchanged. We will always work with the government of the day and we place a stable macro-economy

paper. Non-voters leave no mark in history. But they could turn up on 1 and low inflation high on our list of | deals to the benefit of their IAN GIBSON

Managing Director and Chief Enecutive Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Sunderland, Tyne and Wear

Str. You report Michael Heseltine's warning to clergy "if they trespass on the field of politics" (report, 17 March). Does his use of terms more appropriate to landed gentry protecting their property reveal a need for a reminder that in this life we are all tenants, and the lease is quite short? Put the shotgun down squire, you don't own this field! The Rev STEPHEN LEEKE Warboys, Cambridgeshire

#### Sky bid does pose threat to pay-TV

Sir: Nigel Walmsley's letter (14 March), in reply to Polly Toynbee's perceptive article on digital television, obscures the important issues involved. The facts are as

If the Sky/Carlton/Granada bid is awarded the licences to operate digital terrestrial television, it will smother any realistic possibility of effective competition in the pay-TV market. (Can anyone seriously imagine BDB, with Sky as a 33 per cent shareholder, bidding against BSkyB for premium pay-TV

It will reduce new opportunities in the advertising market; Granada and Carlton will do sweetheart

production companies, and new and independent programme producers will be locked out.

Instead of creating greater diversity, the digital age will then concentrate power into the hands of an ever smaller number of players.

The British Digital Broadcasting partners have talked down the prospects for digital terrestrial for some months - and we now see why. They argue that the prospects are so marginal as to make it impossible for Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) to thrive against unbridled competition from digital satellite. This is gamesmanship at

the expense of the public interest. At DTN we take a different view. and believe that DTT presents a tremendous opportunity to create a competitive market – offering hoice at a lower price to viewers; full scope for interactive services (such as home banking and Internet access); and great opportunities from independent producers. We believe this opportunity can best be realised by full-hearted competition. JEREMY THORP Digital Television Network

#### Follow that trail

London SW1

Sir: A view of the evening sky from Westminster places comet Hale-Bopp (report, 11 March; letter, 13 March) somewhere over Wirral South. Is this a portent?
ROGER D'ALBERTANSON

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

#### **British poets** for export

Sir: I can sympathise with Ruth Padel's annoyance at not being included in the British Council's touring exhibition "Contemporary ("Poetry in the land of Saint Patrick", 17 March1: no one likes

being left out. What Ruth Padel calls "a new list of 60 poets" is the brochure accompanying the exhibition. Both exhibition and brochure feature 70 poets, in fact. The council has no intention of choosing for "export" only these poets, nor has it ever followed such a policy: the council's literature officer tells me that between March 1995 and the present day, 30 poets not included in the exhibition have toured for the conneil (including Ruth Padel), and the council intends to continue

its own independent line. Of the 70 poets, several are indeed dead - rather more than Ruth Padel's 10: 17, actually, True. a dead poet can't be "toured"; hut one hopes that Auden, MacNeice. Larkin, Bunting, MacCaig etc will nevertheless go on being read, at home and abroad. The exhibition isn't an agent's listing of who is available for performance.

How Ruth Padel thinks she cnows so firmly that I haven't been "seen in the last 10 years at readings", I don't know. It isn't true. I have even heard Ruth Padel

ANTHONY THWAITE Low Thurston, Norfolk

#### customers and hope that they will respect the needs and sensitivities

Virgin welcomes babies on trains

Sir: The Virgin West Coast policy is very simple - we welcome all of other travellers (letter, 19 March).

Any mother wishing to hreastfeed her child is welcome to do so, but it would be helpful to check that those around her are comfortable with this.

We hope that anyone disturbed or embarrassed would move, but our senior conductors on the trains will help if necessary - and they all

We look forward to Mrs Johnson's next trip and hope that she and her haby enjoy their journey with us. Managing Director West Coast Trains Limited Birmineham

Sir: A train conductor threatened to throw a breast-feeding woman off a train because she was "upsetting passengers" (letter, 19

March). Does that mean that if I complain about loud-voiced mohile-phone users they will get the same treatment? ALEX GALLOWAY London SE6

3

0

#### MEPs didn't ask for new 'palace'

Sir: Sarah Helm's article about MEPs was welcome, if only to show that the waste of building two new parliaments was not the fault of the MEPs ("What could this building in Strasbourg be? Another pleasure palace for our MEPs", 19

March). In fact the European Parliament has never said it wanted the new Strasbourg building.

Some of us succeeded in getting the Court of Auditors to rule that the contract should never have been signed. Yet the sitence of the member states on this issue is

deafening.
The cost of this three-ring circus (Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg) is about £125m per year. By meeting solely in Brussels. the new building there could soon be paid for by the savings made from the monthly trek to

Strasbourg.

If the parliament can see this, why don't the member states? Sarah Helm gave the answer. TERRY WYNN MEP (Merseyside East & Wigan, Lab) St Helens, Mersevside

#### Hard to swallow Sir: Swallows returning a month

earlier due to global warming (letter, 18 March)? I have been reading Gilbert White's book The Natural History of Selbonie, where he notes that the swallow "appears in general on or about the 13th of

April".

He goes on to recall a swallow arriving "on a sunny warm Shrove Tuesday; which day could not fall out later than the middle of March". CFCs in the 18th century? NICK HODGSON London B2

Sir: Yesterday [18 March] I saw the first gratuitous reference to the early appearance of a hird species in a national newspaper letters column. Is this yet another manifestation of global warming? WILFRED POLE Crawley Down, West Sussex

Real powers of

Welsh assembly

Sir: Liberal Democrats will be

campaigning for a Welsh Senedd which has real powers and a truly

proportional electoral system, as Mr Wigley (letter, 18 March) knows. Not only was this policy agreed at Cornwy, it was also reaffirmed by the

full Federal Party spring conference

in Cardiff a week later. This was

(Lib Dem prospective parliamentary candidate, Neath)

Sir. R Pugh's letter (18 March) about

"dap" and its meanings in South Wales is fascinating. Unlike him, I

have come across "dap" meaning

"bounce". But his third use of "dap"

needs a small challenge, Plimsolls et

are "daps" in Cardiff and, I think, in

the valleys. But in Newport they are

"dappers" - presumably when one runs in them, one "daps"

"bounces") along the road.

Sir: The meaning of "dap" as

plimsoll has been enshrined in

characters in a rughy cartoon strip published in The South Wales Echo.

As I recall from a valleys

was much more violent.

FRANK HARRIS-JONES

childhood, "dap" was to bounce

gently, in contrast to "tamp", which

the name of a pub, "The Golden Dap", much frequented by the

MICHAEL LANDERS

four days after the text of the Macletinan-Cook constitutional

agreement was released.

Dapping on

FRANK LITTLE

Swansea

# Bill and Boris sup in Helsinki

Today and tomorrow, the presidents of Russia and the United States meet to confront their countries', and their own, problems. We look at what they hope to get from each other

#### **BORIS YELTSIN**

by Phil Reeves, Moscow Correspondent

**6** Yeltsin will

arrive looking

much like an

ageing boxer

fighting out of

his class ?

olitics aside. Bill Clinton has always had a soft spot for Boris Yeltsin. But the gift that he has unwittingly handed his Russian counterpart before the Helsinki summit goes beyond the usual boundaries of generosity. And Mr Yeltsin

He, Boris not Bill, was supposed to be the invalid, the ailing leader who could barely walk. He was the one whom we all felt sure was doomed by ilt-health to leave office soon, ending a political odyssey that has embraced the collapse of the Soviet Union, economic reforms, a slump comparable with America's Great Depression, the bombardment of parliament, and a hugely costly war. And yet the lame one will be the accidentprone Bill Clinton, nursing a leg injured outside the golfer Greg Norman's house in Florida. If all goes smoothly. Mr Yeltsin will have once again proved not only to have astounding powers of recovery, but staggeringly good fortune.

He needs it. He will arrive in Helsinki today

looking much like an ageing boxer who is lighting out of his class, and is therefore reduced to weigh-in vaunts. The main issue at hand, Nato enlargement, concerns no less momentous a theme than the security of Europe in the next cen-tury, yet the advantage clearly lies with his opponent. So much so that Andrei Kozyrev, his former foreign secretary, has suggested that the summit is a mistake. "What kind of diplomacy is it that

makes our president go to the worst possible meeting with a US president after six years of Russia's new existence?" he asked Echo Moskvy radio station. "Now Yelisin has either to refreat before the enemy or enter a new tough round of confrontation.

Mr Yeltsin's last meeting with Mr Clinton was nearly a year ago, last April, when the G7 con-vened in Moscow. How times have changed. The conflict in Chechnya was still raging, despite Mr Yeltsin's insistence to the contrary. The Communists were riding high after securing 23 per cent in December's parliamentary election, and there was real concern - even among the cooler heads of western diplomats - that their leader, Gennady Zyuganov, would win the presidential election.

But time and again. Mr Yeltsin has proved it is dangerous to underestimate him. His flair for campaigning, the might and money of his election machine, and his capacity for "realpolitik" came to the rescue. He lavished wild promises on the electorate, squeezed Mr Zyuganov off the airwaves, and successfully wooed the support of a fellow candidate, the popular ex-paratrooper Alexander Lebed - who brought with him a healthy number of votes. Mr Yeltsin even managed to wind down and later end the Chechen war.

All this won him back his place in the Kremlin, but precious little else. Even before July's final round, he was crippled by hushed-up heart

problems, beginning a period of absenteeism that has consumed a fifth of his four-year second term. Unstable and bewildered, the country was quietly run from behind the scenes by his then chief-of-staff, Anatoly Chubais, advised by the president's daughter, Tatyana, and a small group

of business moguls.

Eight months on, the picture looks no hetter.

This week's cabinet reshuffle, which has given This week's cannot reshuffle, which has given a starring role to two young warriors of free market reforms. Mr Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, the 37-year-old governor of Nizhny Novgorod, has delighted the West – and particularly Mr Clinton. "It is a very positive sign," said US State Department's Nick Burns. "We are very anxious to work with that team.

But this enthusiasm is not shared by many Russians. The country is engulfed by deep disillusion. fostered by a welter of crises - from corruption reaching to the pinnacle of government, a collapsing welfare system and growing unem-ployment, to an army that is falling apart. Although inflation appears under

control, consumer prices have risen by 1,700 times in the past five years, demolishing the life savings of most Russians. An epidemic of tax evasion has forced the government to slash back spending stoking up vast wage and pension arrears. This hostile crivironment has prompted many to conclude that politics is nothing more than a dangerous contest between for-mer Communist opparatchiki and mighty industrial and financial

interests over the spoils of a wrecked land. So the events of the next two days are crucial. Mr Yeltsin needs a public relations success to ease domestic tensions, and to prove to Russia that it is still a powerful player on the world stage. This will not be easy. No one expects a final settlement over Nato, although there may be some progress. Whatever deal eventually emerges. there will be few cheers in Russia; it remains as unshakeably opposed to the alliance's enlarge-ment as the West is to forging ahead. He may be able to notch up some modest

gains elsewhere - movement over Russia's ambition to join the G7 and the World Irad Organisation, progress with the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and promises of US investment in return for a Russian pledge to create a more secure husiness environment. For the cameras, there will be some silver-tongued assur-

ances from Bill, and some growling from Boris. Mr Yeltsin is a great performer. The world will never forget how he climbed on to a tank to face down plotters in the abortive coup of 1991. He has a record for making astonishing come-backs - ranging from his return after being purged from the Soviet politburo in 1989 to his victory last year. But he will need all his Houdini-esque skills if he is to walk away from Helsinki without looking as lame as his American opponent.



e not fooled by appear-ances. Thanks to that mishap chez Greg Norman on a moonless night in Florida last week, the most powerful man in the world will be rolling into Helsinki today in a wheelchair. Bill Clinton is eager to remind his countrymen that his function in life is not confined to exchanging pres-idential access for financial donations to his party; and the summit with Boris Yeltsin offers the per-

fect opportunity.

In the case of re-elected American presidents, foreign travel is traditionally the refuge of the scoundrel. As Watergate moved towards its climax, Richard Nixon sought solace with Anwar Sadat and Leonid Brezimev. Ronald Reagan's most effective answer to Iran-Contra was three summits with Mikhail Gorbachev. The great Democratic fund-raising rumpus has not yet reached such critical proportions but, even by its own dyspeptic stan-dards, the political mood in Wash-ington is peculiarly rancid.

Mr Clinton is only two months

into his second term; but already the prospects for the balanced budget deal that was to have been

its capstone may have been fatally poisoned, while the campaign finance dispute has claimed the head of Tony Lake, nominee to head the CIA until he threw in the towel in disgust on. Monday, proclaim-ing that his turbulent confirmation

process was proof of how the system "has gone hay-wire". In short, foul-tempered par-tisanship reigns and at least one hyperventilating Republican con-gressman has been muttering bout impeachment.

Beyond that, little of substance is happening here. The divided government bequeathed by the 1996 election, the allegations against the White House and the have left both Democrats and Republicans adrift. The vacuum of policy is being filled by the fund-raising row and ad hominem per-sonal attacks. Great wheels of government like the FBI and the Commerce Department, caught up in the crossine of allegations, are scarcely turning, while key ambassadorial appointments have been stalled by sensitivity over campaign contributions. Mr Clin-ton confines his policy initiatives to such momentous topics as safe car seats for children. Even so, the fuse has had scant impact on his popularity; indeed the torn tendon may garner a few ratings points

from the sympathy vote. But that may change when hear-ings open on Capitol Hill and Fred Thompson, the mediagenic Republican senator from Tennessee who chairs the Governmental Affairs Committee, bids to be the Nineties equivalent of the Watergate inquisitor, Senator Sam Ervin. And who knows, there might yet be another tale of the tapes, and another Alexander Butterfield on the witness stand, to destroy a White House. In truth, only the most rabid Clinton-baters quite believe

that. Even so, small wonder that a

Jowal's gacy reat of

hobbled US president was adamant that come hell or broken crutches. Helsinki 1997 would go ahead.

There is nothing like a summit to display the executive power of the American presidency, and this one could be a beauty, a linear descendant of the great encounters descendant of the great encounters of the Cold War. History indeed may see it as part three of a late 20th-century trilogy of US-Russ-ian relations. In Act One, built around the three summits of Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington between 1985 and 1987, Reagan made the decisive engagement with Gorbachev. George Purk pracided over Act Turn the Bush presided over Act Two, the collapse of the Soviet Union. Now, from the empire's fragments, Bill Clinton has the opportunity to fashion a new security order in Europe. Reagan intuited that the end of the evil empire was at hand, while Bush's greatest achievement was to help ensure the end was peaceful. The challenge facing his successor is to persuade a wounded and suspicious Russia, shorn of a superpower'a self-confidence, of the virtues of a new beginning. In the best Cold War traditions.

Mr Clinton's spokesmen play down the occasion. A "rontine" session,

arate the two sides. 6 There is But the topics sumnothing like a mon up confrontations of the past: summit to security, borders. conventional forces display the in Europe, opposing power of the interpretations of the ABM treaty and presidency 9 the outline of a new round of nuclear

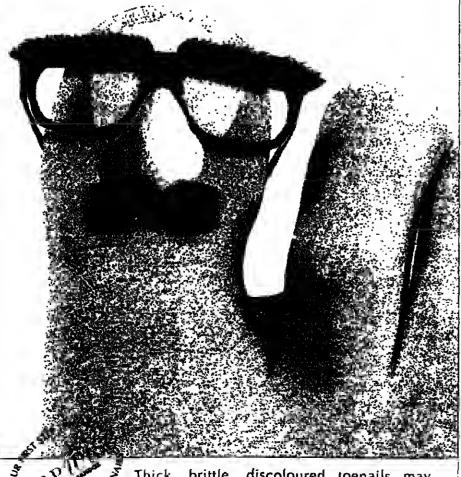
arms cuts - and so did this week's performance here of Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian foreign minister, whose foxy stonewalling recalled Andrei Gromyko in his prime.

Today, of course, the balance of power has tilted lopsidedly towards the US. Like it or not. Moscow knows that Nato expansion will go ahead and Mr Clinton will make clear to the Russians entrants will not be the last. Any doubts on that score should be dispelled by the presence at Mr Clinton's side of a Secretary of State who was twice a refugee from tyranny in Eastern Europe. Beyond his recent bluster, Mr Yeltsin's strategy can only be to secure the best deal possible, rather than attempt to stop an enterprise which is irreversible.

To that end, Mr Clinton may prove a surprisingly supple part-ner: Once he was criticised as being uninterested and unskilled in foreign affairs. But after early mishaps in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia, he has performed well. In different ways, America's involvement in Ireland and its brokering of a Bosnian settlement show his growing appreciation of the use of US power. This time the game is trickier; one of imposing his will, without humiliating a Boris Yeltsin who, whatever his frailties, remains Washington's preferred horse in the pursuit of a stable Russia, at peace with not only the world hut itself. Helsinki may only be a waystage to this end - but Americans will be reminded that their president is not money-raiser-in-chief, but commander-in-chief.



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OGQ, or call FREEPHONE 0800 200 210.

# What's in a name? Humiliation, that's what

his column is guaran-teed to be an electioncustomer can find a trace of contamination by election matter, he will get his money back. Thank you.

Three or four months back wrote a piece about names which could be confused sexually - names like Evelyn, Robin and so on. This was prompted by my belief that the American poet Joyce Kilmer was a woman, which caused many a correspondent to beat me about the head with the news that he was a man. (One person confused me by writing in to say,
"You'll be telling us next that

Val Kilmer is a man!") Nevertheless I still stick to the line I took then, that people who were given sexually ambiguous names could not complain if their gender was occasionally mistaken indeed, there were other names which I could have mentioned in this connection. Pat is one. Pat is short for Patricia but it is also short for Patrick, so a Pat can be a man or a woman. I had a distant cousin once, a distinguished jazz pianist called Pal Smythe.

and he suffered from the fact that there was an even more famous woman show jumper called Pat Smythe. What made it all more ironic was that because she was called Pat Smythe (rhyming with "writhe") he, too, was called Par Smythe although his mother, I think, had always pronounced her surname Smith", which is the really smart way of pronouncing Smythe. His mother, by the way, had the wonderfully rare name of Ysenda, which is a name that never could be mis taken for a man's.

Hilary is another name given to both men and women. Of the two Hilarys 1 have met in public life. Hilary Rubinstein is a distinguished literary agent and editor of the Good Hotel Guide, while Hilary Strong is the distinguished director of the Edinburgh Fringe. One is a man and one is a woman. The late Ruby Murray was a woman, while the ever-youthful jazz cometist Ruby Braff is a man. (I would guess that, in his case, Ruby is short for the commonish Jewish name Reuben, as was the case with Rube Bloom.)

Shirley was another name 1

Miles

mentioned as being bisexual, but after I wrote the last article, Geoff Lofthouse wrote to me from Leeds to say this: "You omitted to mention the best-known (up here) Shirley of all, namely Shirley Crabtree from Halifax former Rugby League player and all-in wrestler, known in the ring as 'Big Daddy'! His stoty is that he became a rugby player and wrestler in order to combat the jibes and insults he received as the

result of his unusual name... This is no laughing matter. I received another letter from

a man called Shirley - admittedly it was only his second name - which had caused him considerable embarrassment in his youth and which he had spent many years not admiting to, "as I was gazumped by Shirley Temple born a year or two later, so no schoolboy could possibly reveal a name like Shirley". But most poignant of all is the letter from a man who

Kington

had been given the name Kay. Nowadays Kay, if used at all, is thought to be female, in the wake of stars like Kay Kendall. But when he was christened in 1924, Kay was inclubitably a male name. Hans Andersen's Kay and Gerda were boy and girl. The childhood companion of King Arthur was Prince Kay. "So I had a perfectly respectable and proper first name of Kay. But no sooner had I got it and become properly used to it than some woman whose proper first name was Kathicen or Catherine or some such, decided to play the piano for the BBC. The BBC - then an infant and knowing no better - allowed her to become known as Kay on the Keys'. So my name was stolen and lost for ever."

The letter goes on to relate how he suffered such humilia tions as being put in the female wards of hospitals before giving in and changing his name to Martin. I felt for him. My father used to call me "Kay" too, though it was only short for Kington. It was almost as if he were apologising for giving me the name Kington, which is infallibly turned into the more common Kingston. Even the Radio Times gets it wrong. Look at today's Radio 2 listings and you will see me at 7 pm listed as "Miles Kingston\_"!
A render writes: fust a

moment, just a moment! Have you engineered this entire article just to drag in the misspelling of your name by the Radio Times?

It's not just me. They spelt Kevin Kline as Kevin Kilne the other day...

Answer me! Is this whole article just to humiliate the Radio Times for calling you

Well, at least I didn't mention the election...

This election-iree zone will be

Td drop him

with me, 'said

Sean, eyeing Mad Frankie

across the restaurant

john walsh

rail union was, quite properly, appalled, "Sick and uncaring" was how Adams described the

rail company.
Then Mr Dave Sergeant

You could hear the

What is, of course, obvious

is the mendacity of Great

wasn't conveniently lying

came on to explain for Great

now, no problem, if I had me Luger

# Howard's dismal legacy – Straw's great opportunity

he governor of Armley prison, Leeds, surveys the wreckage of any kind of policy of rehabilitation in his jail with growing despair. Prison oumbers oationally are at their highest come. at their highest ever-up nearly 20,000 since Michael Howard took over as Home Secretary, and rising by around 300 a month. To cope, we have even bought a prison ship from America, And, almost certainly, during the election cam-paign prisoners will spill over into police cells, which the Government swore would

never happen again. Yesterday, Howard's final act of vandalism, the Crime (Sentencing) Bill, was oodded through the Commons, with a Lib Dem/Labour amendment that only slightly softens its-

disastrous impact.

Armley, like all the other jails, says Governor Rannoch Daly, is full beyond bursting, with all single cells doubled up. "Prison running costs have been cut to pay for the prison building programme," he says. His staff has been cut (1,300

officers cut nationally in the last year), the therapeutic groups. have been cut, education is cut (available to only a third of those who need it). The very idea of useful, purposeful, improving activity has died in our jails. The prison workshop is mainly closed now because officers spend all their time bussing overflowing prisoners to spare places in Wormwood Scrubs and the South.

That, says Daly, is a calamity, In faraway jails, prisoners lose they could choose to save on touch with their family, work and the outside their prison budget and spend on letting prisworld. The probation service, which helps to preserve home links, is being cut nationally by 29 per cent, although those who leave prison without family ties are six times more likely to reoffend. Watching, appalled, the passage of the Crime Bill, Daly says, in the argot of his trade, "I'm not Strangeways shroud-waving; but in some jail somewhere there will be a last

a straw soon."
To remind you: the Bill imposes automatic To remind you: the Bill imposes automatic (which don't).

life sentences on second-time violent and sex ... So how could Jack Straw do it? This is the offenders, a minimum seven years for third—really difficult part, for it cannot be done time Class A drug dealers, and three years for—quietly, by sleight of hand. In other depart-third-time domestic burglais. The Lib Dent/—ments, ministers can say one thing and do Labour anendment allows judges to vary it for—another—talk tough, act soft; or talk generto give precisely the sentence they expect pris-

oners to serve. What effect will it have on the exploding prison population? The Government asserts that it will add 11,000 more. All the professionals in the field, the prison governors and the Penal Affairs Consortium (the umbrella for all the reforming groups) regard that as a ludi-crous under-estimate. They reckon it will be around 24,000 more prisoners. Richard Tilt; head of the Prison Service, has said 25 new pris-

ous will be needed over the oext 12 years. What a dismal legacy Jack Straw will inherit.
What will he do? Well, he does not have to implement most of the Bill at all. It can simply sit and rot on the shelf, most of its clauses superseded by a new and better Criminal Justice Bill of his own. This will be devoted to what really matters - reducing crime and getting the best valoe out of the vast sums spent on it: £10bn a year goes on police, courts and prisons. How? By careful study of research and trusting in the best scientific evidence, wilfully ignored by Howard. Evidence-based medicine is the name of the game in the NHS. Now we need evidence-based crime and sentencing policy, treating it clinically, forensically.

Straw will have more chance to do great



Polity Toynbee Commentator

of the Year The jails

are full to bursting. but with a sensible penal policy,

Jack Straw could divert millions into crime prevention

> and control over budgets so ocers out early with extra probation support, setting them op in projects and work, back home in the community, only letting go of them once they were safely settled. This intensive care and treatment cost no more, because offenders spent less time in prison. Contrast that with the current insanity in the UK of cutting the probation service (which works) by 29 per cent and building 25 more prisons

good than any other incoming minister. He will be virtually the

only one not handcuffed to a desperately inadequate bud-get. Why? Because if he were

to reduce prison numbers to the level reached by Douglas Hurd's reforms, immediately before Michael Howard took

over, he could save a cascade of

cash. Returning to the Hurd levels (hardly days of wild, dan-gerous liberalism), Straw would

save some £480m a year, every

year. That is what Howard's

Now imagine the preventive programmes he could buy with that - the hopeless families helped while their children are

still small, the lost and wild chil-

dren caught early with special help and education, family cen-

tres, after-school and youth

schemes on disaster estates, young offenders taken in hand constructively straight after

their first crime, prison regimes designed to educate, train and

treat. The best probation

schemes can stop reoffeoding

by up to 50 per cent more than

There is good evidence about

what works: anger-management, challenging offending behav-

iour, education, drug and alco-hol projects, teaching people to think about their actions – soft stuff maybe, but effective. Take

a prison programme monitored closely for 14 years in Massa-

chusetts - it reduced reoffend-

ing by an astounding two-thirds.

It gave prisoo governors dis-cretion over releasing people,

extra 20,000 prisoners cost.

drug dealers and burglars in special cases. It ous while acting mean. But the Home Secre-in effect ends early release, instructing judges tary speaks in public with the voice of the law. Judges and magistrates tune their sentencing

policy finely to his words. Howard had oot introduced any draconian sentencing laws until yesterday: the prison population simply rose at his bidding. By shouting "Prisco works!", by stirring up the tabloids, by exhorting the judiciary directly, he changed the peoal climate, and the judges responded. They did the same when Hurd called for them to keep petty offenders out of prison. Now they will be waiting to draw their cue from Jack Straw: What he says in public they will obey. He cannot talk tough and do good by stealth. His words will be his most important actions.

So, with an avalanche of an election victory behind him, will Straw dare to brave the wrath of the law-and-order lobby he has courted so assiduously? Well, why not? What is the point of the most stupendous electoral landslide if not to do what you want at last?

I suspect that the post-election Straw will speak in very different tones to those we shall hear during the campaign. After all, if he uses the right words and sentimeots, publicly urging the judges to adopt a wiser, evidence-based sentencing policy, those words will turn into pure gold pouring into his departmental



Mad Frankie Fraser, an expert in blagging, fronting up, grass

wo generations of villainy regarded each other across a Dublin restaurant last week. Representing the East End of London was Francis "Mad Frankie" Fraser, former hatchetman of the Krays and Charlie Richardsoo and a legendary figure in the arts of persuasion. These days, he has a travelling roadshow in which he explains to delighted audiences the niceties of hlagging, fronting up, grassing, totalling and (Fraser's own refinement) extracting the teeth of ill-favoured associates

with gold-plated pliers. He has been over in Ireland, appearing on The Late Late Show and putting himself across as a bit of a rough diamond, After one such show, he was dining in a swish restaurant called the Courtyard with his girlfriend, Marilyn, and others, A friend of mine was at a nearby table with an elderly gent called Sean, an IRA man of the old school and the last surviving member of Michael Collins's "intelligence squad" who routinely guaned down the Black and Tans during the war of independence. At 96, he is an unashamed ex-guerrilla who was pleased as Punch to see himself impersonated on

screen in Neil Jordan's recent

film about his former boss.

The aged Sean could oot take his eyes off Mad Frankie, with his triumph-of-theembalmer's art complexion and his dubiously blackened hair. "Who's yer man?" he asked my friend, and sat nodding sagely through a recital of the Fraser curriculum vitae: the 40 years in prison, the deaths, the gangsters, the certificates of insanity, the incarceratioo in Broadmoor, the lot. With the high-mindedness that characterises a lot of terrorists, Sean tut-tutted about Mr Fraser's bad-boy record. He had, he said, the strongest objection to criminals (as opposed to "freedom fighters"). "In fact," he said, narrowing his eyes, "Pd drop him, no problem, if I had me Luger with me now." And the former hard man of London gangland was more than a little surprised to see a wizened Irish nonagenerian at the next table point a spindly

aving devoted myself to a life of ceaseless to a life of ceaseless work and charitable endeavour, interrupted only

finger at him and go "Bang!

by momeots of sober meditation on the futility of human wishes, I was surprised the other evening to find myself blissfully and fantastically sloshed at midnight in the depths of Soho at a basement club called Gerry's. We had been launching a novel by Joseph Connolly, the former bookseller turned prolific writer of black comedies about people you would rather not have round for dinner, Drunkenness, adultery, madness, sexism, kidnap and hlackmail

make starring appearances in his new book, Sauff, along with the author's trademark: irascible conversations. The pages of his books are strewn with enraged italics, as people called Raymond and Gideon have furious rows with each other or say "You're such a bitch, Emily" to their wives, It's no surprise to find that Rik Mayall is slated to play Eric, the hero of Connolly's second novel, This Is It, which Granada is televising in the

The author himself is famous for two things. One is the prodigious amount of hair he has managed to grow all over his face, spreading like a mohair tarpaulin over the cotice surface of his head and neck. From 10 yards, he resembles an amiable yak. Close up, he comes into focus as a younger (and hairier) Captain Bird's-eye.

Copnolly is, as far as one can tell, a perfectly reasonable-looking chap, so nobody can explain why, since the age of 24, he has allowed this shaggy efflorescence of beard, moustache and hair to spread across his fizzog like a Rastafarian triffid.

The secood thing is his aversion to being compared to Kingsley Amis. Everyone compares him to Amis - the New Statesman does, the Ham & High does, even his publisher does. Connolly would much rather his works were considered to be sui generis. He has, however, only pleasant memories of Amis, whom he knew as a customer in his Flask Bookshop in Hampstead and as a drinking companion in the Flask pub next door. "I remember Kingsley once

going home to judge a poetry competition for the Express or the Mail, whose readers had been encouraged to send in their work," he recalls. "Kingslev had asked to be paid in Scotch, to bypass the tannan,

and had been sent six cases of The Macallan that day. When I came by later in the evening, he and Laurie Lee, his cojudge, were rolling on the floor amid lots of empty bottles, shrieking with laughter at the awfulness of the entries and choosing a winner by sticking a kitchen fork into the

Nice to see the literary

ad sight of the week was the man from Great Eastern Railways who appeared on the regional news on Tuesday night to explain about the dead body on the track. On 6 February, a young woman apparently committed suicide by jumping in front of a train on the Shenfield-to-Southend line in Essex. They discovered the body at 5am. What did Great Eastern Railways do? Shut down the line until the corpse could be taken off the track and borne respectfully away? Well, oo.

Eastern Railways. It wasn't our fault, he said. We couldn't just close down the line. That would mean fouling up all the services and inconveniencing customers. The customers expect the trains to run on time, you see ... collective jaw of the nation drop opeo with a thud. Had this guy any sense of the human body as anything more than a business unit?

world displaying the ethical rigour for which it is so justly famed,

Eastern's position. They are at the mercy of the "penalty regime" that came in with privatisation - stipulating that if services fail to run on time. the company under contract must pay a penalty. It is an extension of the "passenger's charter", and its heart is in the right place. But to elevate the importance of the timetable or the financial penalty above the last corporeal presence of one of those very passengers is to take the "charter" insanely One more thing. When they found the woman's body, it

herween the sleepers. Her mangled remains were hanging over the track. Some helpful milwayman had to move them into the middle and cover them up before the

Could we get him on telly. perhaps, to explain the need for Customer Throughput Efficiency Maintenance, or whatever they call it at Ghoulish Eastern Railways?

5

3

first of the 20 trains arrived to

hurtle over her demolished





The novelist Joseph Connolly (left), and the amiable yak, clearly a model for his facial hali

that there was a body on the line but that they had to drive over it. Twenty trains thundered over the mortal remains of a 28-year-old woman who had had no wish to live, but who might have expected a slightly more dignified seod-off.

When the news got out a month later (which it did only because Lew Adams, the geoeral secretary of Aslef. was told by drivers last week) the

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# Listen lads - women's work counts, too

t was no surprise that David Blunkett, the shadow education and employment minister, attacked the Government's jobs record yesterday after the release of figures showing another staggering fall in the headline unemployment total. But Mr Blunkett reserved his real outrage for one particular Tory failure. We have the worst record io any major jodustrialised nation for jobless households and there are around a million fewer men in work today than when John Major came to

power," he said. His comments followed the publication of a TUC report which focussed oo the hard time "freadwinners" are having in today's world of work. John Monks, the TUC's general secretary, said: "Once the Goverument's rose-tinted spectacles have been removed, we see the reality behind their high employment figures. They have been achieved by including in their figures foor-quality, lowhours, poorly paid jobs.

Real men don't work part time. Real men work down the pit or in t'mill and bring home enough money to keep a family of four. Or so you would have to conclude from Labour's

thetoric. Labour thinks it is on to a vote winner by concentrating its attack on dismal employ-



Diane Coyle



ment prospects and general insecurity. One of the chief weapons in its armoury is the claim that the Tories have generated only part-time - and by implication inferior - jobs. Statistics on jobs and unem-

ployment are unusually open to creative interpretation, partly because there are so many of them around and partly because they are fuzzy snapshots of a complicated and shifting reality. So when the Government claims that its policies have created employ-ment and Labour replies that, oh no they haven't, it is hard to know who is the hero and who the pantomime villain.

Yesterday's headline statis-. tics are about the least useful because they are so distorted by successive changes to benefit rules. The most reliable information comes from the Labour Porce Survey, a quarterly survey that uses internationally accepted definitions of unemployment and employment. The latest one showed that the number of people unemployed, at just over two million, was 548,000 lower than wheo the economy was at the trough of the recession in the summer of 1992.

This comparison might favour the Government too much, for any damn-fool Chancellor ought to be able to to look at the number of jobs deliver falling unemployment and, to be generous to the

during an economic recovery. A tougher test is to compare yesterday's figures to the last peak in the economic cycle, in 1988. Unemployment oow is 194,000 lower than it was then, suggesting that there has been some underlying improvement in the jobless total on top of the oormal effect of the business

To counter this, Labour

politicians object that the

unemployment total does not tell the full story. For, they point out, some people have dropped out of the labour market altogether - they have given up looking for work out of sheer discouragement. These people are oot classified as unemployed", hecause this would require them to be actively iob hunting. The numher of these "economically mactive" adults has climbed by 270,000 since 1992 and 671,000 since 1988, lending some support to the theory that dis-

failing unemployment figures. But at the same time the total number of adults of working age has risen eveo more, and some of them would have become "inactive" even if there had been no change in employment prospects. The bottom line for assessing the economy's record on employment is

couragement accounts for

Labour myth, at the number of new jobs since the peak of the last business cycle. True enough, 793,000 full-time jobs for men have vanished

during the past nine years. On the other hand, the economy has created 518,000 part-time jobs for men, 280,000 full-time jobs for women and 499,000 part-time jobs for women. That is a net employment gain of just over half a millioo. To slice these figures another way, 275,000 more men are out of work but 779,000 more womeo are in work now compared with 1988. Labour's attack on the Government's jobs record depends on a clear assumption that those male job losses outweigh three times as many female joh gains.

Spokesmen - sorry, spokes persons - often indicate that part-time jobs, which are mainly taken by women, are not proper jobs. The part-timers need to be converted to "fulltime equivalents" before they can be counted. Not that they think it is just a question of the little lady going out to make some pm-money. New Labour shed that sort of attitude with its cloth caps. But the party is still clearly haunted by the ghost of the traditional breadwinner bringing home enough to support the family. It's New Labour, oew lads.

But the same surveys show

did oot want a full-time joh, and another 14 per cent are studeots oot free to work full time. That makes sense - in fact it would be no surprise to find that as many full-timers would rather work part-time if they could. Of course, it might be that some of the 54 per cent of adult women who are in paid employment, whether for four hours a week or 40, would rather not have to go out to work at all. That they would rather be home-makers supported by a husband's or partner's earnings. After all, the housewife has a highly valued role in our society, as any politician would insist. But there are no statistics to support this rather doubtful contention.

The latest academic research, by Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth at the London School of Economics no Tory hotbed - paints a pictute of a lahour market in which a lot of new jobs are indeed part-time and temporary but the fastest growing occupations are managerial and professional. There is a genuine employment laddet with parttime work as its first rung.

New Labour might find itself making more headway with real women if it stopped unconsciously belittling the five milhon female part-timers taking advantage of the flexible labour

# business & city

New figures show numbers out of work sharply lower, a big rise in employment in service industries and strong high street sales

# Rapid rise in earnings rocks financial markets

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Evidence that the economic recovery is unleashing wage pressures joited the financial markets yesterday. Gilts prices fell sharply as investors con-cluded that higher interest rates after the election looked a rac-

A new batch of figures show-ing unemployment sharply lower, a big rise in employment in the service industries, stronger than-expected high street sales and rising pay inflation coin-cided with the publication of minutes showing that Eddic George, Governor of the Bank of England, had urged the Chancellor to raise interest rates last month.

The minutes report Mr George saving: To have a rea-sonable chance of hitting the inflation target two years ahead, the Chancellor needed to begin to take action now." But Mr Clarke turned down the recommended quarter-point rise in hase rates, and is expected to turn down the Governor's advice at their next and possibly final meeting on 10 April.

"An immediate post-election rise is on the cards now," said Kevin Darlington, an economist at Hoare Govett.

The shock for the City in yesterday's figures came in an increase in underlying average earnings growth to 5 per cent in January. December's figure was revised to 4.75 per cent. The pace of pay inflation has risen by a full point since October. "It is the most rapid acceler-ation of that magnitude in earn-

ings since the 1970s," said Leo ed to a tight jobs market. The Doyle of Kleinwort Benson. ed to a tight jobs market. The headline unemployment claim-Higher bonuses in the service sector - especially the City -

were partly to blame for the jump. "Even so, the recent trend is clearly still worrying." said David Walton at Goldman Sachs. Reports of skill shortages. especially in services, have

The Bank of England would he pushing even harder for higher base rates, be predicted. and a rise of half a point after

ant count fell by 68,200 to 1.74 million in February.

The total was lower in all re-gions and for both men and women. It was the first dip below 1.75 million in six years, and is likely to pass the 1.5 million

mark by the end of the year. The Office for National Statistics said the introduction of the Job Seeker's Allowance in October was still distorting the monthly claimant figures, and

To have a chance of hitting the inflation target ... the Chancellor needed to begin to take action 9

the election could not he ruled

Inflation figures due today are expected to provide the Government with some temporary relief. Some of the effects of the strong pound, which have sent inflation at the factory gate tumbling, are expected to feed through to retail prices in the short term. But most experts expect this to be short-lived, with home demand likely to send retail price inflation higher again later this year.

Shares in London ended low er, with the FTSE 100 index down nearly 25 points at 4,332.2 Gilts lost nearly a full point, with some traders nervous about today's retail price

Other indicators also point-

it was not possible to adjust for this fully. Nevertheless, it said the downward trend in unemvment was higher than the 15.000-20.000 ii had been

estimating previously. Notifications of new vacancies to Jobce utres increased by 40.600 to the highest level since January 1980. The number of unfilled vacancies, at 270,000, is above the late 1980s peak. The latest employment sta-

tistics showed un increase of 54,000 in December, most of it in services. Manufacturing industry added only 1,000 new jobs in December, but another 15.000 in January.

Other official statistics confounded expectations that spending on the high strect would turn out to have been

lier surveys suggesting a slowrose by 0.5 per cent, taking them to a level 4.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. This was slower than January's 4.8 per cent rebound but similar to last autumn's pace of growth. The increases were spread al-most across the board, with two

exceptions. The volume of supermarket sales was flat last month, while mail order continued its steady decline. Sales of clothing and

footwear bounced, probably due to widespread price cuts in February. Sales of bousehold goods and department store sales continued to be buoyant.

The good news is that the volume growth bas been achieved by price discounting," said David Hillier at BZW. But he noted that prices of services, as opposed to high street goods, were rising at an annual rate of above 4 per cent.

The expectation of higher borrowing costs to come in the UK was cemented by figures showing that US consumer prices rose more than expected last mouth. Many analysts reckon the Federal Reserve will increase American interest rates by a quarter point after its Open Market Committee Meeting next week, "If the Fed raises rates and the UK statistics continue to power ahead, monetary policy on this side of the Atlantic will be left lanishing in the mire of the political business cycle," said David Bloom, an economist at James Capel.



Auf Wiedersehen Germany: After boom (above, in the television comedy) and bust after the Eighties, brickies' rates have risen

Co-op hires top merchant banker to fight Lanica

### Beazer hopes to lure builders back to UK

Patrick Tooker

Superhod is back. The economic conditions which awned Max Quarterman, the brickie who became a million-brickie who became a million-aire during the 1980s building boom, have returned and could have thousands of exiled labour-ers immortalised in the hit se-ries Auf Wiederschen Pet to come home from Germany.

That, at least, is the hope of Beazer, Britain's third-biggest housebuilder. It warned yesterday that the strength of the housing market especially in London, was leading to skill shortages that threatened to delay some building programmes.
Wages are being driven up to
levels not seen for a decade.
Brickies in London now com-

mand a hously rate of £8.50 com-pared with £7 just six months ago, according to Grant Prior of Construction News. And on the delayed Jubilee Line extension, an electrician's hourly pay bas shot up from £7.50 to £9.

Beazer's warning is under-lined in a report out today by Cambridge Econometrics, the economic consultants. "Skill shortages and capacity constrnts could soon begin to appear, including among materials producers, reflecting the restructuring of capacity and the loss of skilled workers during the reces-sion," when hundreds of thousands of builders left the industry.

Cambridge Econometrics expects output to grow 4 per cent this year and 5 per cent in 1998. The outlook for construction is

since 1964.

pointment.

Mr Keelan has been re-

cruited to give specific advice on how it should consider the

approach by Lanica's associate company, Galileo.

It is thought the Co-op is ex-pecting Lanica to make its

move in the next 10 days or

hacking of £1.5bn and due

diligence money of £10m from

City institutions such as

Schröders and Perpetual, the

Co-op is expecting Mr Regan

mused by Mr Keelan's ap-

They keep saying the mat-ter is closed. But if that is the

case why bave they appointed

Lanica Trust said it was be-

to withdraw from the fray.

disappear from the scene.

1980s boom," the report say Joiners, plumbers and electricians are in short supply but the problem is most acute with hricklayers. "They can take their pick at the moment." Mr

Despite the recent strength of sterling against the mark, exiled brickies in Germany still earn about balf as much again as their UK peers. And in a reversal of historical trends, British labourers are heading over to Dublin to capitalise on the building boom in Europe's feetest growing economy.

the building boom in Europe's fastest growing economy. dubbed the "Celtic Tiger".

To cope with the skills squeeze, Beazer is calling on the thousands of British hullders who fled the recession to make their fortune from the German post-reunification boom.

"Come home," urged Dennis

"Come home," urged Dennis Wehb, Beazer's chief executive. "We are just matching our requirements now but we are having to make our existing labour force work hardet," he continued. "Good quality peo-ple have not been trained over the last few years and we just can't get enough units built quickly enough."

Mr Webb - a Geordie like the character played by Jimmy Nail im Auf Wiederschen Pet - was

speaking after Beazer posted a 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £23.8m in the six months to December 1996. Marley, the building materials group also noted an improved trend in UK housebuilding as it reported full-year profits of £85.0m (£46.3m).

## Saudi prince buys 5 per cent stake in TWA

**David Usborne** New York

Living up to his reputation for putting hig money into struggling but ostensibly still salvageable companies. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia has taken a 5 per cent stake in Trans World Airlines. News of the investment came one day after TWA disappointed Wall Street with worse-

than-expected fourth-quarter earnings. The loss of \$258.6m (£162m) on revenues of \$803.3m underlined the difficulties still confronting the airline since it was struck with last summer's crash of TWA 800. For the billionaire prince,

who is a nephew of Saudi Arahia's King Fahd and the grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder. Ibn Saud, the TWA purchase represents a first foray into civil aviation. TWA is America's sixth carrier and was the only big US airline to show a loss in 1996. From his base in Riyadh the

prince, 40, controls an international investment portfolio that includes a bank, a supermarket chain, the Fairmont and Four Seasons Hotel chains as well as extensive property holdings. However, it has been the prince's willingness to put cash

into high-profile ventures in times of desperate need that has carned him the biggest headlines. Most notably, he provided the dollars to rescue both the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands, the home of this newspaper, and the Euro Disney theme park in France. Perhaps most astonishing,

however, given the conservative nature of the Saudi royal family.

FISE 100

FTSE SmallCap 2343.10

was Prince Al-Waleed's decision last year Io sign an agreement with rock-star Michael Jackson to establish a joint venture company named Kingdom Entertainment. The company was created to promote concerts, films, television projects, fun parks and hotels.

TWA said yesterday that its newly installed chairman. Gerald Gitner, was told by the prince that he had no plans to increase his stake in the carrier. To gain his 5 per cent holding, the prince purchased 2,088,000 sbares of common stock. With TWA shares priced at \$6.875 at the close on Tuesday, that would translate into a fairly modest investment of \$14\_34m

While the prince's investment will provide a morale booster for TWA, the future of the carrier remains uncertain. Last month, the main union at the carrier tried to promote a possible hid for control by a New Jersey investment group with participation by Russia number two airline. Transaero Nothing appears to bave come of the approach, however.

In announcing the fourth-quarter losses, Mr Gitner blamed several factors beyond the TWA 800 crash. In particular, he pointed to previous management for attempting an over-ambitious flight schedule in the 1996 summer season that led to poor reliability and on-time performance.

Last month Mr Gitner announced new moves aimed at saving the airline, including the disposal of its ageing jumbe jets, which will be replaced by new and more efficient Boeing 767s and 757s.

Day's change Gamga(%) 1996/97 ligh 1996/97 Low York(%)

4729.40

2374.20

22666.80

13868.24

3632 30 3 72

4015.30 3.41

1954.06 2.92

1791.95 3.60

5032.94 1.95

17303.65 0.88†

10204.87 3 35†

2253.36 1.53†

2194.30 1816.60 3.66

Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

-8.60

-10.50

-10 16

-97 49

+24.03 +0.7

-0.5

+0.3

-0.8



mobilised its defences against Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust yesterday when it hired one of the City's top mercbant bankers to represent it.

The appointment of Brian Keelan of SBC Warburg came as a group of nearly 50 Labour MPs put down an Early Day Motion denouncing Mr Regan as an "asset stripper".

The motion said: "This house deplores an attempt by asset strippers, hiding hehind hrass plates in Monte Carlo. the West Indies and the Channel Islands, to seize the assets of the Co-operative Movement which for more than a century bas served the best interests of Britain's consumers."

It urged the Bank of England, the DTI and the Stock Exchange to "balt this charade before another scandal in the City emerges".

Andrew Regan: Bernused by
Brian Keelan's appointment
The motion caused a furore at the House of Commons as The motion caused a furore

#### Labour MPs cause furore in House of Commons with Early Day Motion denouncing 'asset-strippers'

six of the 47 signatories were Labour Co-op MPs who fuled to record their interest. The MPs said they had re-

op since 1992 and had not thought there was anything to declare.

Mr Keelan was taken in the City as a signal that the move-ment is taking the Lanica Trust approach seriously. It also forces an odd union

defence side of a "hid" when be usually represents the His past battles include rep-

pitches Mr Keelan on the

resenting Trafalgar House in its need merchant banking advice. Electric and a failed break-up Warburg bas provided the bid for National Power by Co-op with financial advice

the Southern Company of ceived no backing from the Co-America.

The Co-op's appointment of

between one of the City's most aggressive, red-blooded takeover specialists and a democratic movement founded in the early nineteenth century to improve the conditions of the working man. Another twist is that it

if we are preparing

for a hostile bid. But you need advice 9

The Co-op denied that Mr. Keelan's appointment heralded a takeover bid battle. It is not as if we are preparing for a bostile bid. But you

The Co-op maintains that a the group's structure in which it is owned by its members the regional societies.

Warburg? It all seems rather

The movement has its roots in Rochdale where a local warehouse became the first Co-op shop in 1934.

It grew to include supermarkets as well as a chain of funeral parlours, travel agencies, opticians and garages. It owns the Co-operative Bank and the Co-operative Insurance Society.

It has huge farming and Though Lanica has secured milk interests. It also has a manufacturing husiness which makes safety footwear and

The Co-op is formed of 51 regional societies, of which the largest are the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which owns the hank, and the insurance business, the Co-opera-

tive Insurance Society.
The movement's combined

# Buoyant Kingfisher to spread wings

**Nigel Cope** City Correspondent

6.38

Kingfisher, the Woolworths and B&Q retailer, reported record sales and profits yesterday as it unveiled plans to expand its overseas interests.

Strong performances from Woolworths, B&Q and Comet helped Kingfisher to a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £388m last year. However, profits at Darty, the French electrical retailer, were held back by a weak French market and the strength of Sterling.

In spite of the record performance Kingfisher chairman

1 Year

681

6 06\_

0.55\_

3 39

26\_

Price (a) Change (s) Changets Falls

128

0.43

3.22

INTEREST RATES

Hedan Boad (%)

Sir Geoff Mulcahy expressed caution about the prospects for this year. "We expect competition to be intense and to see low growth both here and in France." he said.

Kingfisher said its trading since I February had heen encouraging but declined to give a figure on like for like sales growth. This prompted some analysts to express caution about prospects for this year. "It will be a more difficult year especially in France which accounts for 30 per cent of Kinglisher's profits," said John Richard at Nat West Securities. Kingfisher bas opened its

Long Board (%) New Age

Price (s) Change (s) % Change

65

267

Danka Bus Sys 512.5

Stagecoach Hidgs 689 34.5

Vickers

of B&Q in Taiwan. It says the store is trading well and a further two will open this year. The group said it was possible that its other formats such as Superdrug and Comet could open in Taiwan and other Asian markets. Kingfisher is also considering expanding into emerging markets in Europe to complement its interests in France.

first store in Asia with a branch

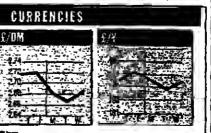
Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chairman, did not rule out acquisi-tions to boost Kingfisher's expansion but declined to comment on speculation linking the group with the Littlewoods

high street stores recently out up for sale, or the Wickes DIY

It is expected that Kingfisher will examine the Littlewoods documents compiled by BZW. While some of the sites would be suitable for branches of Woolworths it is thought unlikely that Kingfisher would be interested in bidding for the whole chain. Kingfisher's group sales were

10 per cent ahead last year at £5.8bn. Like for like sales across the group were 7.4 per cent. Kingfisher shares closed 22.5p higher at 697p.

Investment column, page 22



Testaring Day's the Year Ago

20.30 +0.56 18.61

(London) 15973 +0.83c 1.5323 E (London) 0.6261 -0.32 0.6526 \$ (N York) 1 6030 +1.17c 15338 £ (N York) ± 0.6238 . -0.46 0.6520 DM (London) 2 6858 +1,91m 2 2619 OM (London) 1.6815 +0.330f 1.4762 Y (London) 196,063 + Y1,236 162 901 ¥ (London) 122.75G +Y0.14 106.915 96.3 +0.6 83.7 \$ Index 104.1 unch 95.6

349.15 +1.2 395.35 GDP 109.7+2.6pc 107.0 218.59 -0.38 258.01 Base Rates - 8.00pc 6.75

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### Rexam to axe **1,200** staff

Magnus Grimond

Reram, the packaging group formerly known as Bowater, yesterday announced 1,200 job cuts alongside record losses of £190m as new management atempled to draw a line under past mistakes. Around 500 jobs are to go in the UK, including the loss of 100 places at a factory at Fishponds in Bristol. which is to be closed with smaller numbers going from most parts of Rexam's British

Jeremy Lancast, r, who took over as chairman last year, said the job cuts and exceptional charges totalling £358m resulted from the decision announced in September to "clear the decks by taking action over our under-performing businesses. by making disposals, removing excess capacity and making our historic capital expenditure work for us."

Twenty businesses earmarked for sale have been grouped in a new Octagon division. Together with operations to be closed and disposals already completed, these account for a £254m goodwill write-off in last year's figures. Restructuring and raretained will cost a further £73m, after tax, Mr Lancaster

age packaging and coated films and papers divisions. Cost savings are expected to total £20m

on an annualised basis. Most of the businesses being sold came as a result of a buying spree conducted by previous management at Rexam, many coming as part of the acquisi-tion of Norton Opax in 1989 and DRG Packaging and Cape All-man Packaging in 1992. The company admitted yesterday that, "with the benefit of perfect hindsight", it was clear it overpaid with some of the

The weight of the charges turned pre-tax profits of £180m into losses of £190m last year, but Rexam is holding the final dividend at 8p to make an un-changed total of 14.1p for the year. Sales were flat at £2,28bn. Rolf Boriesson, the chief executive who moved over from Swedish packaging group PLM last year, said: I believe we can move this group from £2bn of sales to £3bn of sales over the next three to four years." This included raising food and beverages from £400m to £600m of sales and healthcare

from £200m to £400m. Rexam conceded that market tionalising the businesses to be growth alone would take turnover to £2.5bn, but Mr Borjesson said the rest would be said, with the are failing most made up through acquisitions. heavily on the food and bever- The shares rose 3.5p to 332p.

AND APPEARS OF THE REAL PROPERTY.

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See of the States

There is, of course, no chance of Mr Clarke doing the honourable thing after the April monetary meeting and raising interest rates. This explains the big sell-off in gilts and short

sterling yesterday'

# Clarke sees no danger but the old enemy is back

مكذا من الأصل

Just as Admiral Nelson put his telescope lor has ignored the Bank of England's to his blind eye at the Battle of the Nile, advice that interest rates must rise for there Kenneth Clarke is doing his hit for his party, if not his country, by a selective viewing of the economic horizon. He sees no inflationary forces bearing down. Rather the reverse, he told Eddie George last month at one of their regular monthly meetings. The signs are that the strong pound is pinching exporters while prices at the fac-

tory gate remain very favourable. Combine

this with steady economic growth and everything points to a smooth passage Yesterday's unmistakable evidence that the old enemy of wage inflation is on the march could scarcely have come at a more awkward moment for the Chancellor. While it may have been possible to persuade the City to overlook rapid monetary growth and ignore booming service industries and construction in favour of limping manufacturing, wage inflation is one thing financial markets do take seriously as an

indicator of wider inflationary pressures in the economy.

There is, of course, absolutely no chance of Mr Clarke doing the honourable thing after the April monetary meeting, and, as he should have done six weeks ago, raising interest rates. This explains the big selloff in gilts and short sterling yesterday. UK interest rates are now hostage to the election and will not rise until May. That will

to be a chance of hitting the inflation target. And let us not forget, the Bank is more optimistic about inflation than others.

In the US short term interest rates will almost certainly be rising again shortly to choke off any possible inflationary danger. Meanwhile, better economic news on the Continent is likely to confirm expectations that interest rates in Europe will fail no fur-ther. Britain, as ever, will be taking inflationary risks on its own.

The consequences for gilts and the pound are predictable. The Government has not hit its inflation target at any point since the end of 1994. Already we have one of the highest inflation rates among the major industrial countries, and one of the highest long-term interest rate spreads over German bonds too. The gap can only widen now the brief flirtation with being tough on

The rapid outbreak of peace in the Krupp-Thyssen takeover hattle bad the German poliocal establishment breathing a mighty sigh of collective relief. But there is a long way to go before the Ruhr steel industry and Chancellor Kohl for that

matter are out of the woods.

The Kohl queue, as Germany's unemtion and will not rise until May. That will ployed have become known, is still at its be six months during which the Chancel-longest since the war and there is every

forged through agreement or aggression.

The fact is that the German steel industry is much less efficient and much less profitable than those of either Britain or France. Nor has the inherent advantage it enjoys of producing steel in the same currency as it is traded throughout Europe been exploited to the full.

At Thyssen it costs about £60 to produce tonne of liquid steel. On Teesside or any of Briosh Steel's three other integrated plants, the figure is nearer £45. The Gcrmans also labour under the disadvantage of having two big steel producers. In France and Britain there is only one.

A lesson which the German coal mining industry learnt the hard way is now been passed on to its steel producers. Job security is a thing of the past in an age when the Japanese, the Koreans and even the Brits can do it better and more cheaply. To be fair. Thyssen is acutely aware of this. But it has taken the Krupp chairman, Gerhard Cromme, to do something about it by short-circuiting Germany's consensus culture with his cheeky bid.

Thyssen may have bought itself time by returning to the negociating table, while the political will for a deal that does not cause mass job losses must remain a powerful influence. But Mr Cromme's surprise takeover of Hoesch in 1991 shows he has opposition.

In that case, he had secretly amassed a sizeable stake in Hoesch while the hoard was vowing to retain its independence. With Thyssen shares off their earlier highs there is a similar huying opportunity in the grey market for fans of Mr Cromme. The next eight days could prove to be the full

There must be life in the Co-operative Wholesale Society after all. Its appointment of Brian Keelan of SBC Warburg, one of the City's most aggressive investment hankers, to help repel boarders is as clear a sign as they come that the ship is manned after all and is taking very scriously the threat heing posed to its tradition and values by the youthful Andrew

What it also tells us is that there proba-bly is a way for Mr Regan to mount some kind of hostile hoarding party, notwithstanding the Co-op's complacent insistent that its rules and constitution make it entirely immune to this sort of grubby capitalist enterprise.

The Co-op is now pulling out all the stops. Through an early day motion in par-liament yesterday, it accused Mr Regan of being a nasty little offshore asset stripper. But just incase the politicians and the

cbance that Krupp and Thyssen will be ability to pull off hostile bids in the face of political uncase and management to lend a hand. Technically his role will be opposition. to evaluate the Lanica "offer" if and when it arrives. What he might actually find him-self doing, if Mr Regan's bid is as credible as his backers claim it will be, is attempting to beat Lanica at its own game - constructing a hreakup which delivers even more value back to the Wholesale Society's regional members.

They've certainly hired the right man to do it. Mr Regan and his apparently high powered array of City backers will certainly meet their match in Mr Keelan, who acted for Southern during its mooted hreakup bid for National Power, and Trafalgar House when it attempted to back its losses into Northern Electric.

In other words, he knows rather more than Mr Regan about the art of the possi-

ble in corporate finance. If Mr Regan is to move at all, he will have to do so in the next two weeks. He's assembled the fire power and believes he's found a way through the Co-op's hyzantine defences. But will be actually fire the cannon? If he backs off now, then the credibility of this young chancer may well he

shattered for good. Certainly his hyper inflated share price will fall like a stone once the suspension is lifted. But if he lights the fuse wire, he can expect a fight that might prove equally

# Cable & Wireless edges closer to US partnership

**Business Correspondent** 

The complex pattern of multibillion pound global telecommunications shifted yesterday as Cable & Wireless apparently edged closer to a long-awaited partnership with Sprint of the US and intense speculation surrounded a possible link-up

the US's third largest long dismove which could value Sprint far more favourably on a UK at more than \$15bn, was seen bid because the British phone by analysts as a logical way for market is open to competition.

market as early as this summer,

it conerged yesterday after it raised £215m in debt and private

equity, writes Chris Godsmark.

The Cambridge-based business, which launched a fixed-line

phone service in East Anglia last

year, released customer figures for the first time, showing 14,000 homes had subscribed, repre-senting 2 per cent of the 705,000

within reach of base stations.

Ionica launched in Coventry

this week and is about to expand

C&W to ally itself with Global One, the alliance between the US company and its partners, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom. It would come on the heek of BT's planned £13bn merger with MCI, Sprint's larger US rival. One suggestion was that the

two European carriers would use C&W as a vehicle to bid for between British Telecom and the 80 per cent of Sprint they Spain's main phone company, do not already own. The US elefonica. regulator, the Federal Com-Cable & Wireless refused to munications Commission comment on reports that it was (FCC), would almost certainly landish takeover bid for Sprint. grounds that French and German telecoms markets are too restricted. The FCC would look

i Ionica set for early float

after raising £215m the end of the month. Ionica, the wireless telephone company competing for a slice of BT's residential business, could float itself on the stock Graham Wallace, CWC's which would be issued if the company fails to float within a a year. The company said no decisions had been taken but it intended to float this year in London and on Nasdaq in the

> lonica also raised £65m in new equity from private investors, including Bank of America, bringing the total equity to £130m. Its main investor, Yorkshire Electricity, took up the offering, maintaining its stake at 19 per cent.

Sprint's chairman, insisted a takeover by C&W would be "impossible" because of existing contractual agreements with France Telecom and Deutsche. However a France Telecom spokesman confirmed C&W was discussing joining Global One. There are talks with Cable & Wireless and they centre on seeing whether the

British partner for Global One." Analysis said any imminent hid moves by C&W would be examining mounting an out- block a direct bid on the difficult because the group is currently fully occupied in completing the landmark £5bn sidiary, Mercury, with two cable companies, Bell Cablemedia and Nypex CableComms, C&W yesterday announced three further senior job appointments for the venture, called C&W Communications (CWC). It is now likely to publish a formal offer document for shareholders by

> new chief executive is also considering appointing a chief op-erating officer to tackle the complex task of merging the three groups' operations. One candidate is thought to be Ian Boatman, a career C&W executive who recently returned from Germany after the company pulled out of its alliance with utility giant Veba. Separately BT declined to

> comment on reports that it was to take a stake in the international division of Telefonica which has lucrative interests in the fast expanding South American phone market.



Michael Harrison

The two German steelmakers, Krupp-Hoeseh and Thyssen, yesterday drew back from an allout takeover battle and agreed

to explore the creation of a "commonly held steel business" after top-level political inter-In a joint statement, the two

companies said Krupp-Hoesch would put its £5bn bid for Thyssen on hold for eight days while they beld talks aimed at reaching a steel cooperation

The temporary ceasefire came after the personal intervention of the German economics minister, Gunter

### Krupp and Thyssen call temporary ceasefire

Rexrodt, and the premier of number at Thyssen, Dieter Vo-North Rhine Westphalia, Jo- gel, hack to the negotiating hannes Rau, who brokered a table after earlier merger talks meeting between the chairmen of the two groups on Tuesday

Industry analysts suggested that the shock hostile takeover hid launched by the Krupp-Hoesch chairman, Gerhard ly timed to force his opposite takeover attempt.

broke down. "Krupp decided to bring out the tanks just to get Thyssen talking to it." said one

If the discussions fail, then the two sides will revert to their original positions, allowing Krupp-Cromme, had been deliberate- Hoesch to proceed with its

mut Kohl, emphasised the im-portance of preserving jobs by urging the two companies to live up to their total responsihilitics". He said: "In the interests of those employed by the two groups would create Europe's companies and in the interest piggest steelmaker, eclipsing

British Steel. But even an agreed merger would entail fierce rationalisation and heavy joh cuts at a time when German unemployment is at a post-war high and industrial unrest rampant in the Ruhr area. Mr Cromme has dismissed

fears that the merger could re-

of the economic climate of the country, the issue is to find a reasonable solution." Mr Rexrodt, who discussed the co-operation plan with Mr Cromme and Mr Voyel, said the two steelmakers had not sought state subsidies but wanted to

achieve long-term competi-

tiveness under their own steam.

last year's loyalty package, which saw £43m shared out

Redundancy costs set the

society back a further £15m in

1996. A further £20m reduction

in pre-tax profits was caused by

more conservative accounting

procedures, taking the impact

after the loan is made rather

than extending it over a longer

hetween members.

as "pure panic-mongering". The German Chancellor, Hel-

Rolls-Royce 'not up for sale' 1 10 als

> Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Vickers, the defence and automotive group, yesterday ruled out selling its luxury car subsidiary, Rolls-Royce, to its German partner BMW.

Sir Colin Chandler, Vickers' chief executive, confirmed BMW would be interested in taking over Rolls-Royce, following a deal where the German group will supply engines for the next generation model due to emerge from the historic Crewe works by 2000. He said: "I would not deny that at all and neither would they but the point is we are not selling."

clearest signal yet that Rolls-Royce will stay as a long-term part of the Vickers empire, which ranges from Challenger tanks to baby incubators.

Rolls-Royce sales rose by 12 per cent worldwide in 1996; though there were fewer esoteric bespoke cars made last year for wealthy individuals, which hit profit margins. Rolls-Royce's sales slumped

during the recession, but Sir Colin said heavy investment in production technology was paying off. Production of the current range of Rolls Royce engines, which date back to the mid-1960s, shifted last year from Crewe to Vickers' other automotive company, Cos-

worth, which is better known for making Formula One racing engines. Profits from the automotive businesses as a whole fell tional Heath Service.

by 10 per cent to £36.7m following reduced demand for Cosworth engines from Ford. Vickers also revealed it was urgently seeking a deal with prospective partners to inject cash into its troubled medical products division, which has

about half the baby incubator market in the UK and US. Sir Colin said he was "frankly disappointed" by the results from the medical business, which saw operating profits rise last year to just £1.6m, from £0.9m in 1995, on sales of £118.5m. The division, which employs 1,500 staff, continued to be hit by falling or deferred equipment orders from the Na-

"We need a partner for the medical division and we're in di-alogue with prospective partners. It's a very urgent issue for pected in a matter of weeks. The comments came as Vick-

ers announced an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £83.3m. Sir Colin also insisted Vickers was over quality problems identified during trials of its Challenger 2 battle tank. He said a second test in



Dorset had just been complet-Disappointed: Sir Colin Chandler said the medical division, where profits rose only slightly, needed a partner ed and the situation was now

# B&B pledges £100m

loyalty bonuses this year. The society's move will mean savings rates at least 0.25 per cent higher than its main competitors, the Halifax, Woolwich Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock, which are

pects to maintain the existing 0.25 per cent gap in variable

back to members. year. The society claimed the re-

The bonus announcement came as Bradford & Bingley announced that its profits in 1996 dropped to £56.6m compared to £107.7m the previous

Bradford & Bingley's assets grew by 9 per cent to £1.7bn. while its new residential mortgage advances grew by 55 per cent to £2.8hn.

Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive at Bradford & Bingley, said: "We remain totally committed to mutuality because it makes better sense for our customers. The one-off benefit of plc conversion is here today, gone tomorrow.

Mr Rodrigues' comments came as Alliance & Leicester continued the inexorable move towards its own flotation on 21 April. Almost 2.5 million memhers will receive a special shareholders information pack in the next seven days, explaining the choices they have over what

to do with their 250 free shares. worth an estimated £1,200 each. Norwich Union, the mutual insurer, is also expected to announce its own flotation plans

# Independent Newspapers keeps up global pace

Irish-based newspaper group, yesterday underscored its rapid development into an international media group with news year." of a 47 per cent increase in pretax profits for last year to

Liam Healy, the chief executive, said the group was well positioned to achieve further profitable growth in the current

With the company's recent acquisition of Wilson & Horton in New Zealand contributing to

time, some analysts are predicting that group profits could rise to as high as Inf.100m this

New Zealand is also predicted to become the company's biggest source of profits for the first time, ontstripping the group's home base in Ireland. Independent Newspapers, which owns 46.4 per cent of The Independent in Britain, seems to have done well across the board last year, confounding those

critics who have challenged its

independent Newspapers, the results for a full year for the first strategy of international ex-

Operating profits were up 33 per cent in Ireland, 140 per cent in the UK, 59 per cent in France, 24 per cent in South Africa, 3 per cent in Australia,

and 6 per cent in New Zealand. The group's share of losses at Newspaper Publishing, owner of The Independent and Independent on Sunday, was Ir£5.2m. The company said it anticipated a further substantial fall in those losses this year.

Mr Healy was keen to stress

the company's dramatic trans-formation from relatively small Irish newspaper group (its flag-ship title is the Irish Independent), to one of the largest pure newspaper groups traded on the stock market.

In the last five years profits have risen ninefold and market capitalisation has grown from Ir£115m to Ir£838m. Independent Newspapers was buoyed in its Irish home market by a very strong econ-

cent and Independent Newsthat. The company also benefited from softer newsprint

In South Africa, performance has been boosted by the addition of new products. Business coverage has been standardised across the group's various titles leading to a big pick-up in business advertising. Weekly personal finance sections have

been added. omy. The advertising market in Mr Healy believes the Ireland last year grew by 18 per group's strategy of developing

a "basket" of newspaper interpapers did a bit hetter than ests spread across the world is being wholly vindicated by "While it might look a mixed

bag, we have managed to extract

value. There are common skills we can apply to all these businesses and we were very limited in our scope for expansion in Ireland." A final dividend of 4.6p is be-

ing recommended, lifting the total for the year by 18 per cent to 6.9p. A scrip alternative is

# in loyalty bonuses

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Bradford & Bingley yesterday fired a further broadside in the deepening war against de-mutualising building societies by pledging to give its 1.5 million members at least £100m in of special mortgage discounts and cashbacks in the 12 months

about to become hanks. Bradford & Bingley also ex-

mortgage rates between itself and rivals. The society claimed that this step alone would give savings of £900 spread over seven years compared to the demutualisers, to someone with a typical £50,000 mortgage. Unlike its previous loyalty

package and that of other societies. Bradford & Bingley's will be set by pegging retained profits to about 5 per cent of its reserves, currently about £1 hn. with any excess profits handed

duction was largely caused by

# Savoy revalues its five hotels at £400m

City Editor

The Savoy Group took a big step towards becoming a normal company yesterday, revaluing its five luxury hotels. including Claridge's, the Con-naught and the flagship Savov itself, at almost £400m. Until now the company, which also owns the Lygon Arms in Worcestershire and a handful of central London restaurants, has merely acknowledged that the value of its hotels was considerably greater than the out-

of-date figures in its books. The revaluation which boosted the Savoy's shareholders' funds from £91m to £372m, was announced along with sharply higher profits for the year to December before a one-off write-down of overvalued assets that sent the com-

pany to a reported £24.3m loss. The Savoy's hotels shrugged off the distraction of a £60m refurbishment programme, de-

Hongkong Land Holdings.

often seen as the jewel in the crown of assets held by the

Hong Kong-based but London-

listed Jardine group of compa-

nies, limped into the colony's

reporting season with a disap-

pointing 4 per cent growth in

underlying net profits for 1996.

which were boosted by an ex-

ceptional gain from the disposal

of its disastrous investment in

Stephen Vines

Hong Kong

signed to reverse years of underinvestment, to record operating profits of £15.7m, third higher than 1995's £11.8m. Margins jumped from 13.2 to 17.1 per cent as occupancy rates of 84 per cent outstripped the previous year's performance and that of its five-star London rivals.

Sir Ewen Fergusson, the former diplomnt who combines the chairmanship of the Savoy with that of Courts, said: "As the vear's achievements make clear, we have begun reaping the benefit of two years' unremitting effort to achieve excellence and improve standards for our guests.

Ramon Pajares, the group's Spanish managing director who was brought in two and half years ago by Sir Rocco Forte, admitted the revaluation of the hotels was the latest initiative to "make this a normal company". He denied the move was anything to do with the stated intention of 68 per cent shareholder Granada to sell its stake.

posal, combined with the elim-ination of a \$145.5m loss from

Trafalgar House operations in 1995, helped boost overall prof-

its almost three times over to

\$649m. Without the Trafalgar

House contribution, profits

from recurrent activity rose

modestly from \$415m in 1995

terday, the company's chairman,

Simon Keswick, could promise

no excitement in the coming

year as there was little likelihood

Announcing the results yes-

to \$432m last year.



to find a buyer acceptable to the

Wontner family that controls the

Mr Pajares said the refur-

hishment programme was al-

most complete. He added that 22 per cent of the group's

rooms had been unavailable

during the year, a total of more

their value to \$9.6bm.

Although Hongkong Land

has retained its position as the

colony's leading commercial

landlord, it has shown none of

the aggressive initiative which

propelled rival property com-

panies into a better position.

While they were busy with res-

idential property developments rising in value by the day,

Hongkong Land was trying to

untangle its expensive invest-

ment in Trafalgar House.

The net result of Hongkong Land's woes is that it is

company through its bolding of

the Savoy's voting shares.

When Graoada acquired Forte at the beginning of last year, the television and leisure group said it would sell the stake as part of a planned clear out of Forte's luxury hotels. Since then, it has sold only a handful of Forte's Exclusive hotels and made no progress in finding a huyer for the Savoy stake. Any sale is complicated by the need than 57,000 room nights rep-

Hongkong Land misses property boom

exchange and witoessed trading

in its shares slump, is seriously

underperforming the property

sector. The higgest increases in

the sector's profits have come

from residential development

but Hongkong Land not only sold almost all of its residential

assets, it failed to maintain its

lord for prime office properties

in Hong Kong with some 5 mil-lion square feet of grade 'A'

property under its ownership or

management at the heart of the

financial district. A revalua-

It remains the leading land-

land bank.

resenting more than £8m in po-

A major success, according to Mr Pajares, had been the restoration of two penthouse suites at Claridge's which, de-spite a cost of £2,100 a night (plus VAT but excluding breakfast), had been occupied for

target. The Jardine Group

fought off a powerful attempt

to wrest control of Hongkong

Land in the late 1980s and reg-

ularly declares its property com-pany is not for sale. This does

management is finally showing

signs that it intends to develop

the business rather than sell off

assets or merely consolidate

those which remain. It is once

again moving out of the central

area to develop a big commer-cial complex in another district

and has even made a timorous

not dampen the rumours. However, Hongkong Land's THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

# Kingfisher back on top but investors should look ahead

most haived from 772p to 389p, chairman Sir Geoff 389p, chairman Sir Geoff while expansion into other Eu-Mulcahy will be forgiven a ropean markets is also likely. smug smile over the recovery at the Woolworths and B&Q group. The shares have been rising steadily for the past two years and jumped another 22.5p to 697p yesterday on the announcement of record sales and profits which hit £388m in the year to last month.

Every division apart from Darty, the French electrical retailer, posted record profits, with B&Q, Comet and Worlworths the star performers. B&Q benefited from the improving housing market, bet-ter cost control and lower levels of shoplifting. Comet rode on the back of strong sales of multimedia PCs. Woolworths' 29 per cent increase in profits to £84m was helped by lower costs and strong growth in toys and bousewares. Its own labels such as Chad Valley toys and Ladybird children's

clothing also did well. from now on may not be quite so rosy. Kingfisher broke with tradition last year and included a trading update in its an-nual figures, largely because the like-for-like sales numbers were very good. There were no figures this time which may mean that the growth is not so good as the 7.4 per cent achieved during 1996.

One of the main problems is Darty, which has struggled in a difficult French market and was further wounded by the strength of sterling.

As Kingfisher also owns a 26 per cent stake in But, another French retailer, France accounts for 30 per cent of group

The French electricals market fell last year and is pre-dicted to be tough again this year. Like-for-like sales increased by just 2.2 per cent and profits were flat at £113m. Because of the way Kingfisher accounts for currency fluctuations any improvement this time could be wiped out by the

strong pound.
With the domestic businesses moving along smoothly Kingfisher is now starting to lonk for new markets overseas. The first is Taiwan. One B&Q

After the disasters of 1994, when Kingfisher's shares almost halved from 772p to and Comet is being considered

On the acquisitions front, a

Wickes deal looks to be on the

backburner while interest in the Littlewoods stores might be confined to a few sites. With NatWest forecasting profits of £430m this year the

shares trade on a forward rating of 15. That represents a small premium to the market and, after a strong run, the shares now

look to have travelled far

#### Chubb bid key to Williams

Williams made a forecast of yesterday's 1996 profit figures a month ago when it an-nounced its £1.3bn agreed bid for Chohb, so there were no surprises in the results. They were none the less good figures, showing a 15 per cent increase It was clearly a bumper set showing a 15 per cent increase of figures, but investors need in underlying operating profits to look forward and the picture which were further boosted by disposal profits on the sale of the group's electronics and UK building products companies to give pre-tax profits up

49 per cent to £340m (£228m). Earnings per share last year of 39.1p were equally distorted by the disposal proceeds, but the underlying picture showed an 8 per cent increase from 22.3p to 24.1p. The total dividend rose from 14.25p to 15.05p.

Kingfisher: At a glance

So far so good but, in the context of the proposed bid for Chubb, last year's figures are really only a sideshow. Worries about the deal in-

clude the likelihood of an MMC reference, the apparent departure from a previous strategy of small infill acquisitions, the steep price being paid, the danger that not underwriting the deal opens Williams up to seeing the value of its offer fall, which might attract a counter bidder, and the probability that in the short term at least it will de-stroy shareholder value.

They are real concerns, but should not distract from the fact Chubb represents a oneoff opportunity for Williams to complete the transition from unfocused conglomerate to genuinely global specialist manufacturer of security and fire protection products. It will gain a real toe-bold in the fast-growing economies of the Far East.

At yesterday's close of 334.5p, up 5p, the shares have recovered almost all the ground they lost after the City's churlish initial reaction to the deal and now trade on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 14.2 on the basis of forecast underlying profits of £301m. Once the benefits of the Chubb deal kick in during the following two years, that rating falls to 12.1 and 10.3 while the gross yield on the shares moves ahead from 6.0 per cent this year to 6.3 per cent and then 6.7 per cent. That is good value,

92 93 94 95 96

Share price (perce)

A PER A MA

THE PERSON LINE

#### Trafalgar House. A write-back of \$217m (£136m) arising from the distion of these properties last year **Bernard Matthews** benefits from BSE

Clifford German

Processed poultry, pork and fish, cooked meats and catering now account for more than 90 per cent of the husiness of Bernard Matthews, the Norfolkbased meat processor that originally made its name from just

And all of these products bave benefitted from the beef crisis, which has shifted consumer preferences to other types of meat.

Beef products only made up a little more than 1 per cent of group turnover and the production line was eventually

Bernard Matthews' total turnover rose by 17 per cent

**Chris Godsmark** 

centives to dealers.

Business Correspondent

Evans Halshaw, the Solihull-

based car dealership group, yesterday signalled a funda-

mental shift in the way the

Ford car giant offers bonus in-

The change, which took place last month, means that for the

first time in many years Ford

dealers will not receive eash

bonuses based on their month-

ly sales targets, a tactic widely hlamed by experts for encour-

aging showrooms to "pre-reg-ister" large numbers of cars to

ating profit rose by 27 per cent to a record £26.9m and, even after a 60 per cent jump in interest costs to £4.4m, profits before tax went up 20 per cent to £22.6m.

Although the results, which showed earnings per share climbing by 21 per cent to 12.69p. were comfortably ahead of City forecasts, the shares

dipped 5p to 119.5p.

The main concern among investors, who will receive a 20.9 per cent increase to 4.1p in the dividend, is the strength of

Exports from the UK account only 5 per cent of Bernard Matthews' sales, hin 15 per cent of the profit is generated overseas. And some imlast year to £355m, the oper-ported meat products are now

Ford bonus system changes

couraged from undercutting ri-

val Ford agents outside their

chief executive, welcomed the

change, though industry sources

have hlamed it for the huge

drop in Ford sales in February

to just 16.4 per cent, compared

with 21 per cent a year ago. Mr

Smith said: "In the longer term

we will see improved profits

margins, tt's a very positive

change." The company has 14 Ford dealerships. Evans Halshaw yesierday

said it plunged to losses last year of £9.3m, down from profits of

boost the statistics artificially. £13.6m in 1995, following exturers cutting the number of

Instead dealers will receive an-nual bonuses and will be dis-£20.4m. Last year Evans an-company fleet huyers.

Affordable Healthcare

Alan Smith, Evans Halshaw's

franchise area.

more competitively priced in the

The price of imported soya bean meal has also reached record levels in spite of the strong pound.

However, profits in the current year were running ahead of 1996, Bernard Matthews, the chairman, said yes-

Capital expenditure, which was mainly spent on building new factories, reached a record £33m, hut net debt rose only

£19m to £30m. The new factories in the UK and Hungary will start to contribute to profit this year and the Bernhard Bartsch group, bought for £5m last November will expand both sales and profits, the company said.

nounced a management shake-up, including Mr Smith's ap-pointment, and a restructuring

programme which involved the

closure or sale of 19 dealerships.

reducing the number to 76.

The cuts cost the company

£11.3m, while goodwill write-offs accounted for further pro-

visions of £8.8m. Underlying profits excluding these one-off

costs fell from £13m to £11.1m.

by more than 8 per cent last year to 36,000, though used car sales on a like-for-like basis increased

by 3 per cent. Mr Smith blamed

the reduction on UK manufac-

The group's total car sales fell

#### IN BRIEF

 The Accountants' Joint Disciplinary Scheme is to investigate Arthur Andersen over its audit of Wickes, the troubled DIY retailer, where "serious accounting irregularities" were discovered last year. Michael Chance, executive counsel of the JDS, said yesterday his remit was to investigate Andersen as auditors of Wickes as well as any employees of Wickes who are chartered accountants. "I would be dissappointed if the investigation is not completed within a year," Mr Chance said. At the eod of the inquiry the JDS will decide whether there are grounds for a complaint to be beard by an independent Joint Disciplinary tribunal.

perpetually seen as a takeover return to the residential sector.

 A dramatic increase in outsourcing revenue, from £116m to £359m, helped British management consultancies' income rise 35 per cent to £1.7bn, according to figures from the Management Consultancies Association. However, the industry body's annual report, published yesterday shows declines in public-sector and information-technology work.

 Aegis, the media group, is making three acquisitions in the US and Sweden for a total of up to £30m. In the biggest deal it is paying up to £18m for loternational Communications Group, an independent media specialist with headquarters in Los Angeles. The news came as Aegis reported an 18 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £39.6m last calendar year on turnover 2 per cent higher at £3.45bn. Earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 3.0p while a 0.6p dividend is recommended.

Bowthorpe's shares rose 5.5p to 394.5p as the UK electronics maker announced a better-than-expected growth in underlying earnings. Its 1996 pre-tax profit fell 6 per cent as it made a £8.5m provision to close three companies in the data-acquisitioo and environmental industries. Pre-tax profit fell to £72.9m for the year ended 31 December 1996, down from £77.5m last time.

 Simon Engineering plunged to a loss for 1996 of £50.6m against a profit of £8.4m last time, largely due to an exceptional charge of £57.4m regarding the sale of the engineering businesses of the access division. Simon's management now says the reorganisation is complete.

Company Results

|   | Ternova: £      | Pre-tax £       | EP\$            | Dividend      |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Augis (F)                                   | 3 45bn (3,40bn) | 39.6m (33.6m)   | 3.3p (2.8p)     | 0.5p (-)      |
| Baszar Graup (1)                            | 227m (158m)     | 23.8m (18.5m)   | 5.83p (4 6p)    | 2.1p (2p)     |
| Bowthorpe (F)                               | 525m (470m)     | 72.9m (77.5m)   | 20.88p (23p)    | 10.12p (9.5p) |
| BNB Resperces (F)                           | 715m (102m)     | 8.36m (5.72m)   | 20.9p (17.2p)   | 7.6p (5.4p)   |
| Branton Hire (F)                            | 21.9m (14.3m)   | 1 7m () 5m)     | 7.1p (6.7p)     | 2.7p (2.25p)  |
| Britt Albertalt (1)                         | 5 05m (5,49m)   | 0.95m (0.88m)   | 2.9p (3.4p)     | 0.6p (-)      |
| Broadcastle (F)                             | - (+)           | 1.71m (1.33m)   | 3.95p (3.06p)   | 1.750 (-)     |
| Calco Energy (F)                            | 36.5m (21.5m)   | 5.92m (9 45m)   | 3.12p (11.7p)   | nii (mil)     |
| W Canning (F)                               | 77.7m (74.5m)   | 8.95m (7 G2m)   | 20.2p (15.4p)   | 8.5p (8p)     |
| Cantab Pharmacouticals (F                   | 7 - (-1         | -4.49m (-8.14m) | -34p (-61p)     | - (-)         |
| Clydeport (F)                               | 17.5m (18.2m)   | 5.31m (5.32m)   | 13.59p (13.34p) | 4.8p (4.4p)   |
| Devro (F)                                   | 302m (97 Bm)    | 44.4m (31.1m)   | 18.5p (17.4p)   | 8.5p (7.7p)   |
| DRS Data & Research(F)                      | 4 82m (6 47m)   | -1.73m (0.59m)  | -3.43p (1 33p)  | 0.250 (-)     |
| Evans Halshaw (F)                           | 871m (835m)     | -9.32m (13 6m   | -32 9p (28.8p)  | 18.5p (16.5p) |
| Exct (FI                                    | 215m (208m)     | 18.2m (18.3m)   | 6.4p (6.3p)     | 4.50 (90)     |
| EW Fact (F)                                 | 11.8m (10.3m)   | 1.69m (0.97m)   | 6.03p (3.71p)   | 2р (0.75р)    |
| Financial Pub (1)                           | 1.89m (2.26m)   | 0.10m (0.22m)   | 4.27p (9.52p)   | - (-)         |
| Hat Pin (F)                                 | 2.44m (1.52m)   | 0.33m (0.32m)   | 6.2p (7.1p)     | 2.72p (-)     |
| (Jogfishar (F)                              | 5.81bn (5.28bn) | 389m (312m)     | 41.4p (34.4o)   | 190 (15.20)   |
| Independent News (F)                        | 1/419m (I/368m) |                 | 16.520 (14.520) | 8.90 (5.850)  |
| Lettes Road (I)                             | 3.10m (-)       | -4 4m (-)       | -16.2p (-)      | - (-)         |
| Marley (F)                                  | 700m (714m)     | 85 Om (46 3m)   | 20.9p (10.2p)   | 5p (4.7p)     |
| Bernard Matthews (F)                        | 355m (302m)     | 22.6m (18.7m)   | 12.69p (10.45p) | 4.1p (3.39p)  |
| Radius (F)                                  | 27.3m (26 1m)   | 1.59m (1.81m)   | 4.05p (4.37p)   | 1.65p (-)     |
| Recent (F)                                  | 2.28bn (2.28bn) | -190m (180m)    | -48.7p (24.9p)  | 14.1p (14.1p) |
| Savoy Helat (F)                             | 91 4m /89 0m)   | -24 3m (10.5m)  | -93 8p (21.9p)  | 17.5p (14p)   |
| Semple Cockrane (f)                         | 13 8m (10.3m)   | 0.60m (0.44m)   | 6.240 (5.230)   | O 4050 47     |
| Simon Engineering (P)                       | 325m (319m)     | -50 6m (8 4m)   |                 | 0.1250 (-)    |
| डावास्त दासुसम्बद्धानु (F)<br>Staffmark (F) | 10 0m (4.27m)   |                 | -35.5p (3.8p)   | - (-)         |
|   |                 | 0.87m (0.54m)   | 5.6p (3.9p)     | 10 (-)        |
| Sentelph (F)                                | 38.4m (38.5m)   | 1.33m (-1,45m)  | 0.2p (-0.27p)   | 1p (nil)      |
| Television Corp (F)                         | 25 1m (·)       | 3.07m (-)       | 12p (-)         | 30            |
| Temp Centre Secs (1)                        | - (- <u>)</u>   | 4.4m (4.2m)     | 2.63p (2.38p)   | 1.1p (1.05p)  |
| Trinity Intel (F)                           | 333m (168m)     | 58.2m (27.5m)   | 28.3p (21.5p)   | 11.8p (10.7p) |
| Try Group (F)                               | 141m (137m)     | 7.05m (-4 39m)  | 1.52p (-6.35p)  | - (-)         |
| Unichem (F)                                 | 1.490n (1.40tm) | 40.3m (49.4m)   | 13.7p (19p)     | 8.80 (80)     |
| United Carriers (F)                         | 136m (128m)     | 2,07m (-1,86m)  | 5.3p (-7 1p)    | 3.4p (3.2p)   |
| Victors (F)                                 | 1.20bn (1.14bn) | 83 3m (75.0m)   | 16.7p (15.8p)   | 7.2p (6.7p)   |
| West Group (F)                              | 620m (622m)     | 49 Om (45,5m)   | 17 4p (16 8g)   | 5.690 (5.30)  |
| WEW Group (I)                               | 61,4m (67,5m)   | 1.63m (-3.44m)  |                 | nii (nii)     |

المكاا من الأصل

#### opened there last year and a further two will be opened UniChem's second half stagnant

Retail operating profit

UniChem is now in third place while "clean" earnings, up 6.3 amongst UK chemists chains per cent to 20.2p, seem to have since Gehe pipped it in Jan-uary in the year-long marathon bid battle for Lloyds Chemists. But despite having to write off a chunky £13.2m for the cost of the hattle, it was probably wise to walk away from Lloyds, where the Germans are going to have to work hard to justify their £684m bid.

That said, UniChem will need to be equally energetic in convincing the City it has an exciting replacement strategy np its sleeve. Excluding the bid costs, pre-tax profits rose an unexceptional 8.3 per cent to £53.5m in the year to December, bang in line with the fore-

stagnated in the second half. The core drugs wholesaling operation seems to have been particularly badly affected. Underlying the 5 per cent profits growth to £40.9m was a flat 3.1 per cent operating margin, the first time anyone can

remember returns not growing. High-margin toiletry sales continue to be creamed off by the supermarkets, leaving the running to be taken up by low value-added bospital supplies. But last year's sub-market growth of 7 per cent in medicines, the mainstay of the business, has accelerated to 10 per cent in the first two months of cast made two months ago, 1997. UniChem is suggesting

it is ready to expand the wholesaling business into Europe. Even so, the Moss Chemists chain looks more exciting, turning in half the growth in group operating profits last year. The target is to spend up to £50m raising the current chain of 459 by around 100 this year - still be less than half the

size of Gehe in the UK. Beyoud that, the survival of the health bill means UniChem can push ahead with plans to link up with doctors' surgeries. The group is, naturally, un-worried by the Gehe threat and Collins Stewart is looking

for profits of folm this year, putting the shares, up 12.5p at 260.5p, on a lowly forward multiple of 12. Unexciting even so.

#### Library licensing deal sends shares in Xenova soaring

**Magnus Grimond** 

Sbares in Xenova, the biotechnology group which floated at 215p in December, soared 80p to 435p yesterday after it an-nounced a licensing deal with Zeneca for its library of naturally occurring compounds. The news comes less than two months after Xenova clinched a similar research collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb, the

big US pharmaceuticals group. The biotech company refused to reveal the financial details of the link-up with Zeneca, which paid £2m for a 4 per cent stake at the time of the float, but Lonis Nisbet, chief executive, said it was part of Xenova's "enormous progress" over the

He said the company's QTC from plant, fungal and microbial sources, "provide the fastest way of unlocking pharmaceuti-cal products of interest from natural products chemistry". Because of the way they are for-

shipped to pharmacenticals companies which can use them to test potential drug targets.

Zeneca will pay an initial li
David Chiswell, chief executive.

David Chiswell, chief executive. to test potential drug targets.

Zeneca will pay an initial licence fee to use the libraries,

then milestone fees for every lead it takes up and royalties on any drugs which result from the collaboration. The latest biotech tie-up is the third for Zeneca since last June, following socalled database subscription agreements with Incyte Pharmaceuticals of California and Pharmacopeia of New Jersey.

The news came as Xenova announced a small cut in losses from £7.99m to £7.77m for the year to December, on revenues cut from £1.79m to £1.59m. It started the year with £27.8m net cash, including £21.3m from the placing and is libraries, which are derived set to pick up £2m under a deal

with Warner Lambert shortly. Separately, Cambridge Antibody Technology announced that its flotation later this month would be priced at 500p, capitalising the group at £109m. The

said the company would use the money to develop CAT's port-folio of antibody-based human therapeutic products.

Also yesterday, Cantab Pharmaceuticals announced its antiherpes vaccine had been well tolerated in early stage trials.

The drug, which formed the centrepiece of a licensing deal with Glazo Wellcome on Tuesday, was being tested in 24 car-riers of the disease in the UK



With dental and optical cover

# market report/shares



# BT reaches 12-month high despite windfall tax threat

Telecoms dominated the stock market. Nearly every broker in sight seemed determined to dial into BT, and rival Cable nounce a Japanese joint vendous the stock with Telefonica, the Spanish group, and yesterday it anounce a Japanese joint vendous transporter in a second t and Wireless was engulfed by speculation it planned a major

BT was the heaviest traded share and best performing blue chip, hitting a 12 month high with a 19.5p gain to 461.5p. The market has been impressed by a string of investment presentations, mainly relating to the presentations. ly relating to the proposed \$200m takeover of MCL, the US

communications group. The BT share advance has been scored despite Labour threats of a windfall tax and the ture and its involvement in a bid for a Singapore licence.

Cable, up 3p at 509p, is said to have its sights on Sprint, the US group. It was reported to be negotiating with two Sprint shareholders, France Telecom and Deutsche Telecom.

The French denied any talks

with Cable, and Sprint claimed a deal with the UK group was not possible under standstill agreements it had with its Continental shareholders. Cable would probably require a rights issue to fund the deal.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Leisure fell 16.5p to 345.5p. Associated British Foods.

the bread and sugar group, sur-rendered 5p to 511.5p on per-

sistem talk that it intends to sell

part or all of its Irish retailing

operations to Tesco, little

mained subdued by the elec-tion. Footsie ended 24.6 points lower, unable to draw any support from a New York undermined by interest rate worries. The planned windfall tax

continued to weigh on privatised groups with the geoera-tors suffering the added discomfort of Westminster calls to give up more generating capacity.

Beer and leisure shares felt

should be "more concerned" than those at the bottom. The twitchiness over Car-

petright followed the Limelight fiasco - down another 10p to 97.5p - and the MFI warning. Cairm Energy's figures and link with Shell provided a 56p boost to 634.5p: Enterprise Oil was back in the frontline with

a 16.5p jump to 663p. Kinglisher bounded 22.5p to 697p on its results but a downbeat Vickers performance left the shares 22p lower at 239p. Financials had a subdued session. Mercury Asset Manchanged at 334p.
The food producer owns ireland's largest supermarket operation and also has clothgement, where suggestions

breakthrough sent the shares month the shares were crashing 120p but at the close 178.5p. The slump is surpristhey were down 40p at 515p. Kenova, on its trading link with Zeneca, jumped 80p to 435p: the shares came to market at

215p in December. Stagecoach was again shunt-ed lower, retreating another 34.5p to 689p on its trains em-

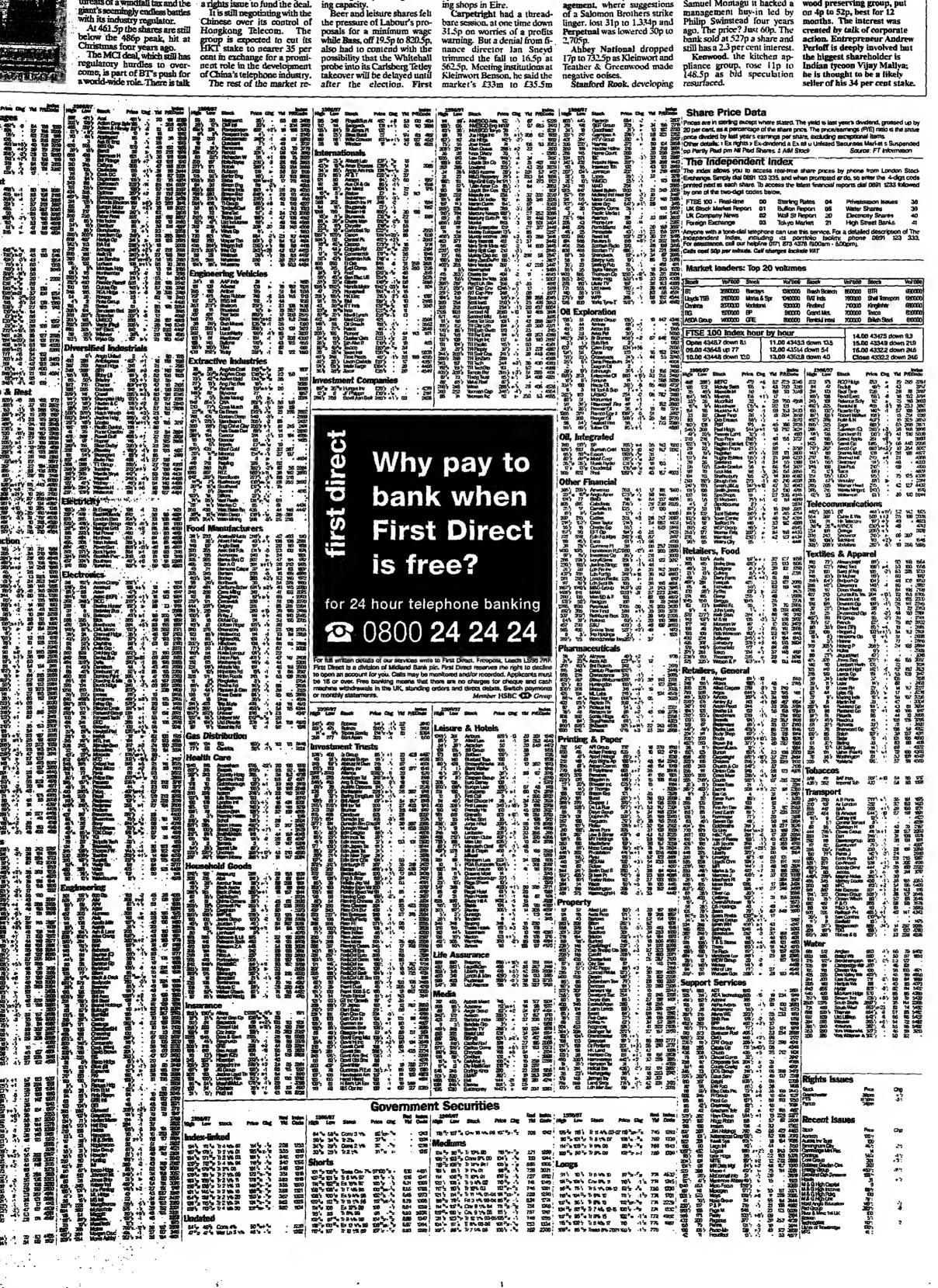
harrassment.
Parity, the computer group, shaded 6.5p to 533.5p as HSBC's investment bank sold one million shares. It found a nch profit irresistible. As Samuel Montagu it hacked a

range was "acceptable" hut a tuberculosis treatment, was added analysts at the top should be "more concerned" Heath Organisation's TB further 3.5p to 124p. Last ing close followers of the company, which has trading links with Rudd Gullit, Terry Venables and the Football Association.

There are suggestions interim profits will match the last full-year's £613,000 and the company's stockbroker. Wise Speke, is thought to be near to producing a huy cir-

Cementone, the paint and wood preserving group, put on 4p to 52p, best for 12 months. The interest was created by talk of corporate action. Entrepreneur Andrew the higgest shareholder is

|     | TSE S<br>143 1<br>FAG 1 | 50<br>/61 1 |              |        |
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|     | ille i                  |             | ams          |        |
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|     |                         |             |              | 11.7   |
|     | 2                       |             |              |        |
| 180 |                         |             |              |        |



# Why these extra hurdles for the jobless to jump are only fair

tion campaign, the Conservatives reckon that falling unemployment is their best weapon. Yesterday's figures brought the Government more good news, with an enormous drop in the headline total for the sixth month running. The February decline follows a fall of nearly a quarter of a million between October and January. taking elaimant unemployment to 1.75 million.

Labour points out, rightly, that nobody trusts the benefit claimant count as a genuine measure of unemployment. The definition has changed 100 often, almost always lending to reduce the total. The most recent change has been the introduction, last October,

of the Job Seeker's Allowance. This will have affected the official claimant total in several ways, some permanent, some temporary. The JSA seems to have increased the length of time it takes to process claims. and has required the introduction of a new computer system. The Office for National Statisties estimates that changed oflice procedures have depressed the claimant total by a few thousand, temporarily,

There has also been a one-off reduction of about 15,000 due to the means testing rules change. Claimants are now means tested after six months

rather than a year. What the statisticians are unwilling to put a figure to is the permanent effect the JSA is having on the headline unemployment total via changes in people's behaviour. These will he operating through various channels. Fraudulent claimants will be seared off, and some genuine ones simply deterred by the new procedures. For example, two thirds of those who used to be able to sign on by nost now have to claim in per-

If the economy is going to be the claimant register - if they the main front in the eleccannot undertake the joh search required by the JSA, for

> Putting a figure on this is tricky, partly because it is difficult to separate out other influences such as the strong economy creating job opportunities, or the benefit cheats hotline. The ONS reckons it will not be until next July that there is enough information available from the Labour Force Survey the more reliable, quarterly set of information on unemployment and jobs - to have a stab at estimating the size of the JSA effect.

> The ONS had put the previous downward trend in unemployment at 15,000-20,000 a month. The economy has built up steam since then, and the statisticians say the trend has increased. They have not put a figure on it, but at a guess the raw trend might have doubled to 40,000 a month between

> September and February. A reasonable guesstimate therefore is that during its first six months the JSA will have reduced the number of unemployment benefit claimants by between 120,000 and 250,000 - or 5-10 per cent of the initial jobless total,

Before writing off this dramatic reduction as a Tory con trick on some of the most vulnerable members of our jobs - the LFS indicates that society, it is worth thinking



DianeCoyle

A large number of those weeded out by the Job Seeker's

Allowance will turn out to have

had work already and be claiming benefit on the side

about the implications. The scheme certainly hullies some claimants into courses of action they would not have otherwise chosen. That is its point. Some of them will be getting

employment is rising reasonably strongly. Some of them might he bad jobs, but it is crazy to imagine that all the unemployed can re-enter the labour market in well-paid. satisfying jobs. Forthcoming research by

Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth at the London School of Economics indicates that "entry" jobs for the unemployed are overwhelmingly part-time and temporary, but it is possible to move up the jobs ladder - once you are on it. The entry jobs are very unstable. Most people will have moved either up or down within nine months, and the typi-cal job lasts less than a year. But getting people into any job is the key to keeping them employed and progressing to A large number of those

weeded out by the JSA will turn out to have had work already and he claiming benefit on the side. Limiting the opportunity to sign on by post will eliminate those claimants who have been cheating the system. It is bugely politically incorrect in some circles to talk about scroungers and benefit cheats, but the indications are that it is more widespread than the woolly liberals amongst us would like to think. The Labour MP Frank Field believes the extent of benefit fraud is one of the

reasons there is a crisis of

confidence in the welfare state, It undermines the willingness of the rest of us to pay the necessary taxes.

The other category must, by definition, he people who are not bothered enough about either getting their benefit or finding work to struggle over the extra hurdles set by the JSA. It is not clear that there are all that many of them; the LFS shows that there has been an increase rather than a decrease in participation in the jobs market in the latest six months it covers. Besides, rather than moaning about the Government discouraging workers so much that they even give up claiming benefit, it is worth asking why they should not be compelled to make the choice.

Everybody agrees that un-employment remains one of the main challenges for Britain. Should a huge public policy effort he directed towards the claimant-unemployed discnuraged by the JSA? Or should it be directed towards those who remain, who will, by definition, need expensive and high-quality coun-selling and training? If priorities have to be set, the extra hurdles seem a very fair

way of setting them.
If the headline unemployment total, however flawed, carries on nosediving in the same startling fashion, it will not be long before politicians on the Continent start to ponder their own relatively gen-erous benefits culture. The French and Germans must be totting up how much they might save on government spending if they could introduce a scheme that would reduce their record levels of unemployment by one-tenth

within six manths. The moral of the tale for governments everywhere is that if they have to sacrifice

# De La Rue swops a toff for a fragrant accountant

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

De La Rue, the maker of bank notes and money transaction systems, has named Brandon Gough as chairman to replace the Earl of Limerick.

Mr Gough was an accountant for years and years at Coopers & Lybrand, rising to chairman before he retired in 1994. He then joined the De La Rue board as a nouexecutive director. We thought it would be appropriate to mark his new job with a limerick, with due respect to his predecessor: There was an accountant

called Gough, Who suffered a terrible cough Then he joined De La Rue, Barked "How do you do". And replaced an honourable

As a fully paid up member of the Great and the Good. Mr Gough is also chairman of Yorkshire Water, chair man of the Higher Educa-tion Funding Council for England and chairman of the Doctors' and Dentists' Pay Review Body. Nicholas Brookes, chief

executive of Bowthorpe, the electronics group, also joined the De La Rue board yesterday as a non-exec.

Returning to Mr Gough, it was at Yorkshire Water, of course, where former managing director Trevor Newton told the public that he didn't bother with baths, and urged them to do the same in the name of water conservation.

Happily, I am informed that Mr Gough is a regular bather, and is in fact positively fragrant.

Yet another bauble for Sir

David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, whose wit is drier than a Highland Park malt. Now he's won the 1997 Founding Societies Centenary award, "the chartered

Brandon Gough: Also chairs Yorkshire Water

Chartered Accountants, will host this year's ceremony in Liverpool Town Hall in May Mr Clayton says: "Sir David has done a remarkable job in gaining universal acceptance of the Accounting Standards Board within the profession in such a short time. He is widely admired not just for his technical expertise and judge-ment, but also for his unfail-

ing sense of humour."
Sir David, a fanatical supporter of the Scottish rugby team and a Murrayfield stalwart, is in Australia at the moment for a meeting of international accounting standard-setters. He says it was a "great thrill" to be in such company as the likes of Lord Benson (formerly of Coopers), Sir Bryan Carsberg and Sir Trevor Holdsworth."

Barings Asset Management one of the few bits of the old Barings operation to come . out unblemished from the Nick Leeson fiasco, bas de-

cided at long last that it needs a marketing department. BAM already has £24bn under management, much of it from high-quality pension and charity mandates. Now it has hired Mark Weber as ...

back in London. Mr Weber ioins from Paribas Asset Management in New York.

More larks from Grip, the London-based Llovd's broker that brought us insur-ance against abduction by aliens. Now Financial Adviser, the weekly magazine, reports that Simon Burgess, managing director of Grip, is to offer cover against the possibility of

legal disputes with clones. Mr Burgess is reported as saying: "In the absence of a will, it is our understanding that an estate will pass to a clone and the established rules on intestacy will be by-

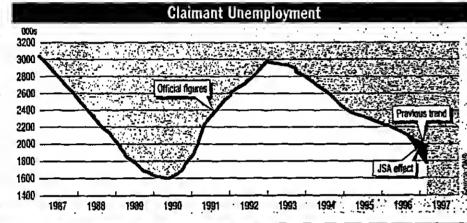
Intestacy apart, might this not be a way of avoiding an impending row over whether Prince Charles should become King? An endless succession of Queen Elizabeth II's sounds rather fun.

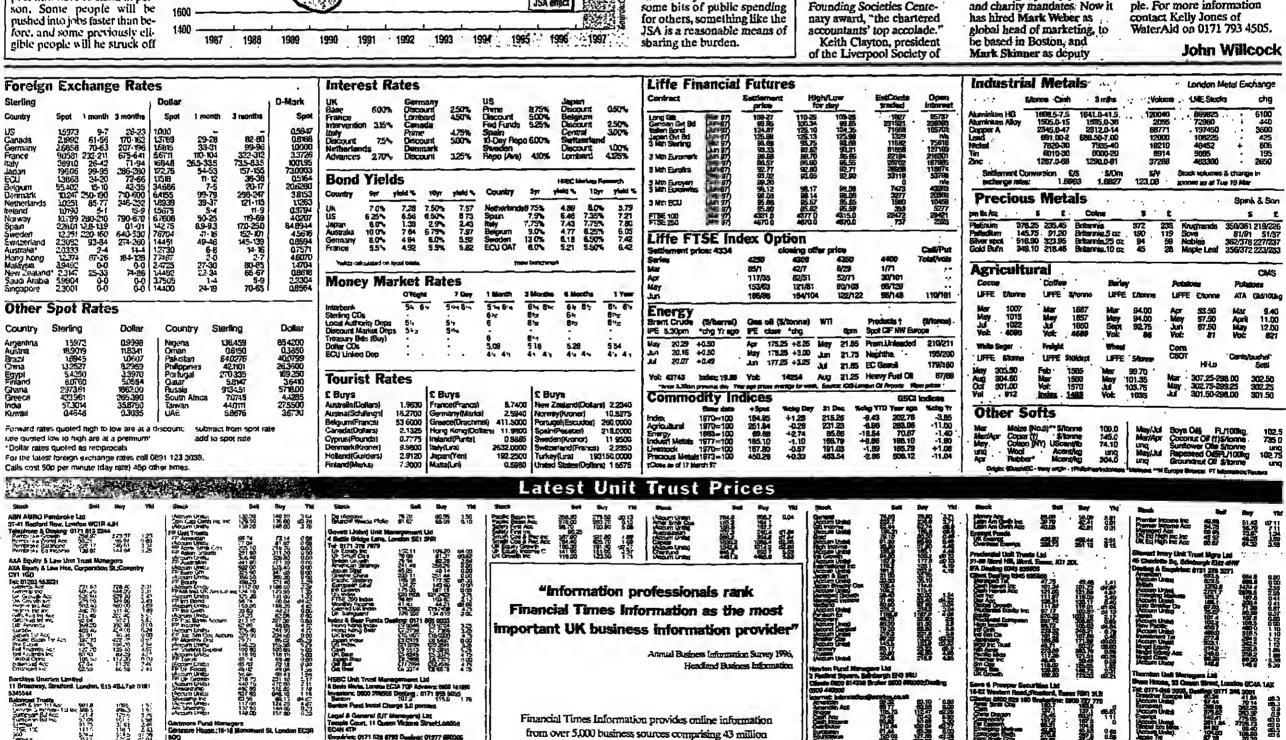
Last Friday it was red nose day and this Friday it will be blue clothes. Nothing to do with party politics - this week water industry staff are being encouraged to dress down and pay £1 each to don blue outfits for WaterAid. the international charity.

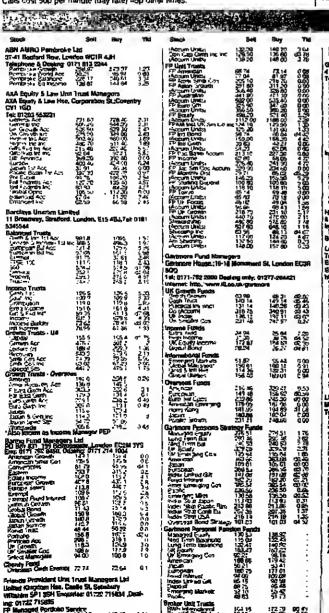
Thousands of staff are being challenged to take up the Grey to Blue fundraising challenge in time for this year's WaterAid Day this Saturday, 22 March.

And if nothing else, it should be fun to see Brandon Gough, chairman of Yorkshire Water (see above). flapping around in a blue

WaterAid bopes the event will raise £15,000 for safe water and sanitation projects in developing countries. That's enough to bring safe water to another 1,500 people. For more information WaterAid on 0171 793 4505.



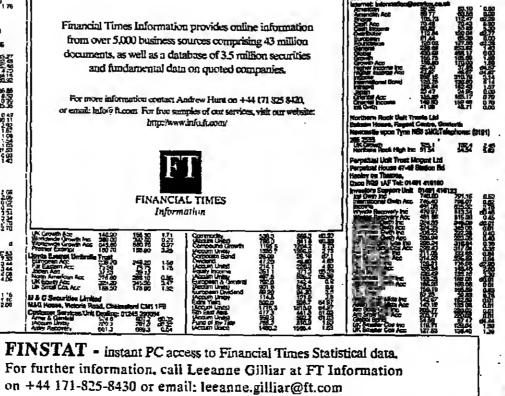


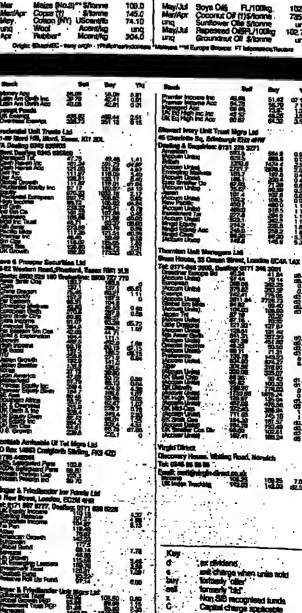




FINANCIAL TIMES







RACING: And they're off. Greg Wood looks forward to the Flat turf season which starts at Doncaster today

# Dettori adds spice to opening exchanges

rewarded jockeys will be there when the Flat season starts at Doncaster this afternoon. Without them, you suspect, the campaign might start and few would ootice because at this early stage, the people are more in-

leresting than the horses. The better colts and fillies of the Classic generation will not see a course for another three weeks at least. In 1997, though, the fortunes of the men on top should be a permanent thread throughout the season, indeed from its very first-day, with every possibility that the jockeys' championship will develop into a serious contest for the first

time in years. It helps that the leading players have such well-defined persoo as that they could easily be Spice Girls. There is Lanfranco Dettori (Chirpy Jock) attempting to reclaim the title most people seem to assume is his already, Kieran Fallon (Rough but Reformed Jock), Richard Quinn (Quiet Jock) and of course Pat Eddery (Old Jock), who needs one more championship to move ahead of Lester Piggott in the all-time list.

Dettori is a short favourite for the title with Irish bookmakers Paddy Power (their British counterparts are reluctant to of-

Godolphin operation. The ri-Power bets: 4-9 Dettori, 4-1 valry between the two for more Quinn, 7-1 Fallon, 14-1 bar, with accurately, between Cecil and Eddery all but written-off on 16-1. Those odds are the io-evitable result of Fallon's appointment as stable jockey to Henry Cecil at Warren Place, where he will inherit any number of potentially top-class rides from the reigning cham-

DONCASTER -

handicap fore the first time.

35: SOMOSTERRA is reported to

be showing ability at home by his trainer, Jack Berry, whose runner

merit particular respect at this time

Sheikh Mohammed, Godolphin's founding father) was a welcome diversion last backend, and the head-to-head hetween the world's most powerful owner and the man he Sleepytime, both prominent in used to employ seems sure to

trainers' champiooship from

Saeed bin Suroor and the

Bosra Sham and Lady Car-

HYPERION'S 2.05: MIRACLE KID, likely to be well-suited by this step up in distance, is saddled John Gosden, whose yard is reported to be prepared for a successful start to the new season. Sword Arm balls from the stable that supplied the winner of this race a year ago. This colt broke his duck with a smooth victory on the all weather at Wolverhampton a fort-night ago. Baubigny is certainly a dark house in this field, running in

of year, and should give a decem ac-count of himself. Mister Bankes, from the yard which won this race last year. Stately Princess, from an-other stable that has its string well forward and Richard Hannon's Wrekin Plot are others to consider.

3.10: A particularly trappy event with Court are obvious dangers.

Fallon will be a crucial factor la, both Classic winners last seaas Cecil attempts to wrest the son, should be among Cecil's more mature otoney-earners, while Reams Of Verse and

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Break The Rules (Doncaster 4.10) NB: Chabrol (Doncaster 1.30)

ante-post 1,000 Gumeas betting, are names which will be close to the top of crib sheets.

the once-raced CANYON CREEK taking on a field headed by two for-midable and far more experienced performers. There is a good chance wever, that John Gosden's four year-old will be more forward at the stage of the season than either Yeast or Amrak Aiceb.

3.48: BRUTAL FANTASY, SUCCES ful on the all-weather in a 6f hand icap at Southwell in January and over 5f at Wolverhampton - by 1% lengths from Mangus on his mo recent venture in February - return to the turi on a fair handicap mark and should go well. Take the 7-1 with

Godolphin's team will not ar- Chapple-Hyam's Revoque, unrive in Britain until shortly before the Craven meeting at Newmarket next month, by which time names such as Moonlight Paradise (second favourite for the 1,000 Guineas) and Shamikh (12-1 for the 2,000 Guineas) should be a fittle

The two-year-old class of 1996 also included Bahhare, the ante-post favourite for the first colts' Classic after winning all three of his starts for John Dunlop last season, and Peter

Eager To Please

Ganners Glory

led Knight

Lener Mosic

Cogtie Ashiby Jack

West Ees Sirt

Divide And Rule

beaten in four races including the Grand Criterium al Longchamp, yet only true devotecs (and those who have backed him) will recall the identity of the Dewhurst winner. In Command, trained by Barry Hills, is all but forgotten on

Other tillies to look forward to include Pas De Reponse, Criquette Head's Cheveley Park

winner, and Ryafen, whose trainer. John Gosden, may find be a long goodbye. Peter O'Sullhis second Classic winner rather Mitsubishi Diamond Vision Hcap - Doncaster 3.40 13.2 11-2 8-1

20-1

20-1

#### Riders to test new selection process

Equestrianism **GENEVIEVE MURPHY** 

has claimed his long-awaited

first, with Shantou in last year's

St Leger. Do not forget either

that the world's richest race, the

Dubai World Cup on 29 March.

is the anticipated starting-point

for Helissio, one of the best Arc

winners of recent years at

Finally, as we greet a new Flat

season it is worth remembering

that for a man who has been

part of the turf for as long as

evan's final compaign behind the

microphooe will take in Royal

Ascot, Glorious Goodwood and

the Arc. but sadly not, on tele-visioo at least, the Derby.

Jim McGrath, his obvious

successor at the BBC, does an

excellent job as the racecourse

commentator on the hig day at

Epsom, but he will also have

many more chances to do so. As

the course authorities try to find

a way to bring the crowds back

to the Downs, they should per-

haps consider hiring the Voice

for one last outing around Tat-

tenham Corner. If that doesn't

put a few thousand on the gate.

nishing will.

3.50 MOTCOMBE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added mares 2m 6f

4.20 SOMERTON NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 5f

22111-2 MINEST TREASURE (10) (BIT) I Belong 6 12 6 JAIN A Building (7) 27/11-6 SOME-TOV (289 (0) ) Some 11 12 6 January (10) 25PP-02 PHANNAN TREASURE (28 G HOW) 7 12 0 January (10) MASTER DONNINGTON Are D Wilsonth 9 12 0 January

RETTING: 5-6 King's Treasure, 9-2 West Quoy, 5-1 Vital Song, 8-1 Some Toy, 10-1 Sobra, 14-1 Finnigan Free, Northura Village, 20-1 others

4.50 QUANTOCK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

12(1-1-1) NORTHERN STARUGHT (14) (CD) M Poe 6 11 11... C Mourte
PPFGG (NAO'S CROSS (10) (CD) A J YASON 8 11 4 ...... A Thornton
501 EASY LISTENING (USA) (48) N Han 2 5 11 3 ...... A REGION
10620 DONTORESSFORDMINER (28) (D) R Hodges 7 10 ?.......

Longehamp last October.

A new method of picking the senior Greet Britain show jumping team comes into effect this year with the introduction of four international team trials most of us can remember, it will from which the best three horse and rider combinations will automatically be included in the squad. The selectors will pick only two of the five squad memhers, from which four will be named for the team.

The new system has been devised by the International Affairs Committee of the British Show Jumping Association, which is chaired by Malcolm Pyrah. It was prompted, aecording to Pyrah, by "dissent smong the riders, who thought selection was a closed shop".

It is quite likely, of course, that the Olympic quartet (the Whitaker brothers. Nick Skelton and Geoff Billington) will still form the team for the European Championships at Mannheim in August. But whatever the outcome, the new trials - at Windsor, two of the Hickstead meetings and the New Forest show - are bound to inject some welcome excitement into the home circuit.

#### Davies ready to heed call from Lions

Rugby Union

Jonathan Davies, the veteran Wales and Cardiff stand-off who was not among the 62 players named in a preliminary Lions squad last month, yes-terday confirmed his availability for this summer's tour of South Africa.

The Lions manager. Fran Cotton, watched Davies produce a brilliant defensive display against England last Saturday. could force his way into the final 35-man party, named on 2

April. "I am available, and I am delighted to be considered." the 34-year-old said, "Hopefully, I did as much as I could in the one match, and now it is a question of waiting and seeing what happens.'

Cotton said: "Jonathan is a candidate for the final party. We left him out of the original list because the reports we had at the time were that he was not playing too well for Cardiff. But Saturday's match was a big plus for him. His decision-making

was excellent." Japan's Jade Stamp Aliens trounced the defending champions, FPD Guardforce Magicians of Fin. 36-19 yesterday to win the Carlsberg International Rughy 10s tournament in Hong Kong.

#### Narrow lead for Urmanov ice skating

Alexei Urmanov edged into the lead after the men's short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships at Lausanne. Switzerland vesterday. but the Olympic champion's

lead was far from impregnable. The American defending champion. Todd Eldredge, and the Russian, Ilya Kulik, were in contention as the judges differed in their view of who was best. Urmanov, also Russian, was placed first by four judges, Eldredge by three and Kulik two. Canada's Elvis Stojko, the 1994 and 1995 champion, was fourth with another Russian. 17-year-old Alexei Yagudin, fifth. All the leading skaters hit the difficult triple axel-triple toe loop combination so the differeace came down to more subtle elements. The 10p three control their own fate in today's long programme, which is

worth two-thirds of the score,

If one of them wins it, he will

take the title. \* THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULT DONCASTER WINCANTON PLUMPTON

Calls cost Silp per minute, 74.5, plc, Screens St ECC \ 47

ADDICASION SET THE PERSON 1.30 Amadour 3.40 Brutal Fantasy (nb) 2.05 Miracle Kid 4.10 Desert Fighter 4.40 FLY TO THE STARS (nep) 2.35 Somosierra 3.10 Carryon Creek GOING: Round course - Good (Good to Firm in places); Straight-- Good to Firm (Good in places.). STALLS: Straight - stands' ader round - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best in big fields on round crouse.

Left-hand, peer-shaped course with rule istraight.

Course is east of town off the A638 [M18 Jess 8 & 4). Bus link from Doncaster Central station. ADMINISTION: Clob S14; Grandstand S8; Family Enclosure S4 (under-1ds free all exclosures). CAR PARK: Free. ELEADING TEADWERS WITH MINNERS: I Gooden - 27 winters from 128 stinners at a rate of 21,1% giving a return to a \$1 level stake of +\$25,91; 8 Hills - 25 winners, 139 numers, 18.1%, +\$38.87; Mrs J Runneden - 18 winners, 179 numers, 10.1%, £10,02; J Berry - 14 winners, 117 runners, 12.3%, +\$10.00.

\*\*I LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettord - 33 winners, 183 rides, 18%, +\$11.83; K Darley - 81 winners, 237 rides, 13.1%, +\$10.46; M Hills - 26 winners, 150 rides, 17.7%, +\$20.34; Pat Riddery - 22 winners, 148 rides, 14.5%, -\$5.75.

\*\*ILINKERED PIRET THEE: Watercolour (2.05)

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Angel Pace (4.10) won at Wolverhampton on Saturday; Plash In The Pan (4.10) won at Politestone on Priday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Raffles Econter (1.30) sent 257 miles by A Newcombe from Huntshaw, Devot. 1.30 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,878 

soils, Nilsewerters Gid, Petossas, Organic Santa M. Babbegs; 21 am 1998; Horo Ye Melson 4.7.3 R Michol 33.1. M. M. Babbegs; 21 am 1998; Horo Ye Melson 4.7.3 R Michol 33.1. M. M. Babbegs; 21 am 1998; Horo Ye Melson 4.7. See an extended two and a helf miles in 6 house hundle at Warwick at the beginning of the month, with be inspired back on the levels, Openic Bart ran on strongly to defeat Star Rage under 98.1. Lifts in Whotehompton in January — the pair ten lengths clear, He goes of a 16th lower rating in this, Galepho won on that serne Wohenhampton card as Opena Bult — a victory sandwiched between seconds on the same trach and at Lingdied, Fabilishess Mitotio word in on the Equitack in January and scored twice on that less term — at Window and Porticitact, Fabry Whitight, witner of a 15-hunner amaster indices award at Accord less October, has been hundling and sin fourth on the Equitach 15 days ago, Almanitaneus, fourth of 21 in this 3 year ago, car again go well, He'a Got Wings, a dual Newcastle scover on good to firm ground.

Solvetice: CLASS D.

| 1   | 2.05          | BACK A WINNER BY TRAIN HANDICAP (CLASS B) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 60yds  | 1        |
|-----|---------------|---|----------|
| 1   | E10210-       | LONE HAS NO PRIDE RESAY (1931) Mass Liftigal R Harmon 9 7   | O'Note:  |
| 2   | K 21          | SELBERGY (ST) (Middletson Perk Rocine VI) P Histori 9 4   | game 1   |
| 3   | 3223-14       | SUPERMELLE (23) (b) (M 8 Yorg) M bass 9 1   | اعجبان   |
| 4   | 442.1         | Swings and clis to a Committee of Control 8 13  | Marie I  |
| 5   | 005-          | BALESSAY (USA) (145) (R M Bretout) M Chemon 8 13  | addery ! |
| 6   | 85-22         | NANCETIL MICH. 1999. (The Silver and Blue Horse Raicing Club) N Graftern 8 11 Mic   |          |
| ž   | 01            | CONTRACTS RID RISA) (126) Louis LOI J Gosden 8 10   | ation.   |
| À   | 023214        | LADY GODDAN (170) Ween Roung M Polgisse 86  | -        |
| Ă   | MO 453        | LIFTEN CHRISTIAN (198) (The Gardening Parinetship) IV Distriction & 6   | A (2) 7  |
| 10  | 432544        | TIME CAN TELL (24) (Darren Crot) C'Murrey 8 4   | SECT.    |
| ũ   |               | TRANSPORTE FOR A AND PROPERTY OF MANAGEMENT AND   |          |
| 32  | REO.          | NETWOOD PROMICES (153) States Count 6 High 8 1  | wher 3   |
| 13  | 212006        | THE DEFINA (174) IF I Sansburi Mr. Martin John 8 T  | Egan 1   |
| 14  | A severe      | A REPORT OF THE PARTY HAVE A SECOND SECTION AND A SECOND OF THE PARTY | נומום    |
| 35  | FERROR        | AR AT AND AND TO COMPANY (AMERICA) M. INTERIOR 7 113  |          |
| 25  | · ·           | WESTERCOLOUR CORD IA M TOTOLO M CHICAGO T 100   | (T) 15 i |
|     |               | - 16 declared -   | -        |
| 100 | era era wekir | no. 7st 1Cth, Teer hardisco weight: Missecolour Bis13th.  |          |

Harmon weight: 78 12m. The harmon part machine has 1 it have the Pride, 8-4. Cellerry, BetTible: 3-2. Send Am., 5-1 Machine (Gt., 13-2 An-h., 1-1 Love the Pride, 8-4. Cellerry, partolle, 9-1 Petrywell, 19-1 Lody Godies, MacHen Weiczwel, 12-1 Magel, 14-2, Needs Gere, Nadie Princises, The Design, 18-1 Time Can Feld, 20-1 Benhighy, 33-1 Watercolous.

1986: Leckan Wil 3 9 4 Pet Edday 6-4 ill Cherton) 16 cm

1996: Lickan Mil 3 9 4 Pet Entery 6-4 iR Cherton) 16 am

SIMORD ARMA, beartan a length and a half by happy Manstral at Nothington-film) last September, was later golded and justified bascuritism at Workenhampton two wheels ago on this reappositions. Swand Arm gat home by only it length but won easily. There is probably even better still to come from the son of Se My Guest and the stable tended this price a year ago with Jackston Hill. As-les, Setheny, Saperthella, Head Standard and Pennylwell are others who have scored there times and twice faintfed humar up from this last, six alt-wenther at who has scored three times and twice faintfed humar up from this last, six alt-wenther at hemittes. Those were were in a selfer and two carmers but As-les gives of a 30b lover mainten when last consistency a franciscop. Manader file, who won at Lingfield last November, having previously run umplaced at Yamouch on his introduction, is another filely danger.

| Love Has No Pride, a Engitor (maldet) and York (nursely) a<br>troublescore.  |  |
|--|--|
| 2.35 FOTE BENVENUTO BROCKELSBY STAN  |  |
| 7 PRIS SOLA (The Rest HS Portressin) I June 8 11. 3 PRIE OF SPANES IS L Cassay O Microsis 8 11. 4 MAGNET ON IF 7 Seat R Haddenes 8 11.   | Aim Greats 7  It Daries 4  T Service 1 |
| 5 SOMOTHER HE SOURS PARENT SEET LOT N FREE SEET TO SOMOTHER HE HOS OWN DELECTION OF SEET OF SEET OF SOUR HE SEET OF SEET LOT N FREE SEET LOT N | T E Dates (5) 6                        |
| 10 WASTER PLOT THE WORLD'S THE WASTER BY   | I. Ventoe 13<br>D. Succesor (5) 12     |
| 12 DATS OF SEMICE ISSUED BY HEATO 6 B.  13 FILEY BRIGG CICLETURE RECORD IN HEATO 6 B.  14 COTT LINE HANGE MAS E A CLUSON) P EVEN 6 G.  | F Egen 3                               |

FORM SUIDE

STATELY PRINCESS, a doughter of Royal Lodge votor Robellano and of good sprinter After
Of State, is reported to be very sharp. The selection's half-brother Statesman landed his
first two races as a two-year-old last season. Jack Berry invariably does well with his juvenies, ble runs Sommelerin, a son of the stable's flying grey Prins House, amo gazed on
wins at two in 1991, the first at this track. Sudgest, a Midyan colt, is the subject of encouraging reports. Richard Hornon has booked Pat Edeery for Whellin Pilot, a son of small
sprinter Ron's Victory and out of a Try My Best mare. But Turner, who won this with Indian
Sperk last year, saddles Minter Beefses, but the soot, being by Risk Me, might prefer give
the remain and efficientation a Driver Programm for its band for speed, as a Dirt Liber Martie. Sperk last year, saddles Minter Banken, but the colt, being by Risk Me, imgm prescription in the ground. Miguelan, a Primo Dominie colt, is brad for speed, as is Out 13ee Magic, in the ground. Miguelan, a Primo Dominie colt, is brad for speed, as is Out 13ee Magic, in the ground. Miguelan, a Primo Dominie colt, is brad for speed, as is Out 13ee Magic.

|   | 3.10    | THE SPORTING LIFE DONCASTER MILE (CLASS A) (Listed) £16,250 added 1m (Straight) £11,454 |
|---|---------|---|
| 1 |         | YEAST (156) (7) (8) Houses W Hages 59 1   |
| 2 | 501018- | AMERIK AFFR (141) (D) (A Mezz) B Harbury 58 12  |
| 3 | 250000  | RAND ON THE RUM (152) (CD) (D ) Allem B McMaron 10 B 12                                 |
| 4 | 1.      | CANTON CREEK (264) (D) (Sheldt Michammed)   Gosden 48 12                                |
| 5 | 3/1446  | LOWELY LEADER (180) (Salem Suhes) R Harron 4 8 12Pat Edday 3                            |
| 6 | 23441-6 | RANGEN (USA) (71) (II) (III) (Basheer Nations) til Turner 4 8 12                        |
|   |         | - & declared  |
|   |         |   |

1996: Rest latered 4 8 12 M Halls 9-2 (6 Wagge) 7 am

YEAST went, from strength to strength in 1996. Off the mark in a Newcastric molden last.
March, the son of Salse went on to win three big Ascot frandicaps and a Listed event at Newmarker. Watarm Hagger's charge is favoured by the race continons, goes well tresh and on tast ground, and is at his best ower a straight mile such as their. His trather reports him in great form, John Gosden's Campon Creek, winner of his single start to date – at Ponteiract last October – looks a useful coft in the making and could be the one to follow yeast home. Assirak Alfeets is another who did well last season with three handicap triumphs – at Newbury, York and Ascot, However, he may not be able to cope with treest getting only 3th – a remark which also applies to Lonety Leader, who wish at Cheristow in June on his first outing in 1996 but failed to add to that success. Bend On The Bush as a good record over the years but his hearn't scored since his course victory in September of

| 3     | .40           | MITSURISHI DIAMOND VISION HANDICAP (CLASS<br>D) £6,000 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £4,464 |
|-------|---------------|--|
| 1     | 351503-       | DEVENE AND RIBE (216) (b) (M. NOTISSON) R Homestead 97                                   |
| 5     |               | ENDIG COS (D) (Summerton Terreport (20) P 5-275 9 7 J F Egen 1.                          |
| · 3 · |               | WEET EES GIEL GOOZ (O) (Ed Weeman (Houses & Storage Ltd) P Evens 9 4.K Fallon 13         |
|       |               |  |
| .4 .  | 003151        | BLENS LAD (139) (0) (As One Hampton R Hamon 9 4 Pat Restory 10                           |
| S     | 31-           | BESHOPS COURT (172) (0) (I) R Brothersoni Mas J Rameden 9 4                              |
| 8     | 1320-         | BENNETES GLORY (197) (D) (Travar Parton) 8 Moetran 9 3                                   |
| 7     | <b>421501</b> | BALLYMOTE (178) (II) Marry Berryten (Record) Ltd. J Berry 9 1                            |
| ġ.    |               | JEDS HONGEST (220) (A Hodgson) M W Easterby B 13   |
| ğ     |               | CASTLE ASHEY JACK (25) Go Futing Racing P Howing 8 11 Paul Billing 11 8                  |
| 10    |               | BRUTOL FANTASY (38) (0) (Digmond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 8 10R Lappin 9                       |
|       | 3-25171       |  |
|       |               |  |
| 12    |               | LUNAR MUSIC (3) (D) (Foul ) Doom) Maryn Meson 8 4  |
| 13    | 56236         | GOLD EDGE (150) (M Charmon) M Charmon 7 10   |
|       |               |  |

African weight 7x 100. Two transforp weight Got Edge 7x 7b.

BETTING: 3-1 Ellers Lad, 7-2 Sichops Court, 6-1 Entide Particley, 6-1 Enger To Piessee, 10-1 Belly-mode, Castle Ashby Jack, Gamer's Gory, 14-1 Just Minglet, 15-1 Lunar Monte, West Ess Girl, 20-1 DMde And Rate, Selen, 33-1 Cold Edge
1980: (Inth Manager 2 Selen, 33-1 Cold Edge 1996: Little Noggre 3 & 5 / Stack 16-1 |C A Dwyer 18 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

BISHOPS COURT, on his debut at Beverley leas September, finished strongly to be third of 15 to Phaze. At Hamilton 11 days letter on his only other running, Bashops Court duly obliged – and im pleasing style, too. He is thely to be fit enough desorte a 172-day absence and can make his first appearance in fraudicap company a winning one. Elects Laid was tried as star advovent furnings at two but the minimum mp burnted out to be has best and his two wins were over it – at Folkestone and Newmarket, both runsenes. Brutal Familiary wors handleaps at Southwell in January and at Workerhampton last turne and could pose a thread of the same mark as last time. Ballyadota, successful twoc last year, is another to consider, Eagler to Please has been in form with Equipment victories in a selier last mornif and at the selection of the same mark has been been between the total the company to be the Selection institute. On the a clarrier 16 days ago but might find this company too hot. Selection: BISHOPS COURT

| 6  | 4.10         | G) £3,000 added 1m 2f 60yds £2,402  |
|----|--------------|---|
| Ř  | 1 342060-    | POREST ROBIN (136) P A Leonard Mrs J Ramadon 4 11 7 Miles E Remoden (5) 15        |
|    | 2 40300-     | TAKE NOTICE (183) U P States) R McKeller 4 11 4                                   |
| а. | 3 \$10000    | MYBOTYE (131) (Arthory Moroney) R Bastman 4 11 4                                  |
| 1  | 4 404231-    | BREAK THE ROLES (145) (CD) (A.) LOTTES M Pice 5 11 2                              |
| 4  | 5 12210-1    | AMGEL FACE (USA) (5) (D) (Mrs E.) Williams; P. Brans 4 11 1 (Set                  |
| 5  | 5 00065-4    | GOLD SLADE (16) (D) (Author Old) J Pearce 8 10 12                                 |
| 2  | 7 142340-    | RESING DOUGH (190) (D) (Breat Person) G L Moore 5 10 11                           |
| 7  | R 2940-00    | LONEYOUNELLIONS (45) (Eas Roung Club) N Turker 5 10 11                            |
| i  | 9 4112-40    | MANUFUL (48) (CD) IC D Barber-Lorran Mas L Perrett 5 10 11 Mire S Bookey 13 8     |
|    | 10 (0/0003   | DESERT FIGHTER (174) (0) (A Featrel Mrs M Reveloy 6 10 11                         |
|    |              | MELS BABY (24) (C) (BF) John Roberts (Varefeld) J L Eye 4 10 8 Miss Diago Joven 2 |
| ï  | 17 2/64      | NERVINOL PRINCE (208) (D Portmary 8 Project 8 10 8                                |
| •  | . 13 2000 14 | TRANSFEX (USA) (42) (D) (Terry Shephent) 5 Dos 4 10 8                             |
|    | 14 426500-   | FOURDAMED (195) (Fourscare) P Harts 4 10 8 Miss A Elsey 9                         |
| •  |              |   |
| ١. | 15 213-403   |   |
|    | 15 43000-0   | OPEN AFFAR (45) (A Fountier H Alcony 4 9 11                                       |
|    | 17 6546-00   | CORREA (13) (Mrs B.) Curley 8 Curley 4 9 9 Mine A Broderick (5) 15                |
| •  | 1E 0/34660-  | FLASH IN THE PAIN (150) (Mrs Victoria Goodman) I Moore 4 9 8 Mrs 9 Moore (5) 17   |
|    | 19 000-412   | ROUSSI (USA) (48) (A A Boodsock Ltd) D Nicholls 69 7                              |
|    | 20 120050    | SQUARED AWAY (185) (Mrs E Lake) J Payre S 9 4                                     |
| 1  |              | - 20 declared-  |
|    |              |   |

HTTRIG: 9-2 Brent The Rules, 6-1 Meis Baby, 7-1 Marrid, 8-1 Aught Pace, 20-1 Decert Fights Roccel, Townfelt, Fether Dec., Fourdeaed, 12-1 Forest Robin, Gold Blade, Hybotys, 14-1 others Pineset, Turndak, Fether Dan, Foundamed, 12-1 Forest Ho 1990: Market 4 9 9 Mass A Essy 20-1 (C W C Elsey) 27 ran

BREAK THE RULES, who was claimed out of Mary Reveley's yard for £15,000 after winning over course and distance last October, is now with Martin Pipe and scored over hundles at laumon and Haydock last month The five-year-old will have every assistance from the saddle with Amanda Perrett booked. Madfal, now in tinda Perrett's yard, won this a year ago when with Bill Esey. The five-year-old gened four more lest year, two at all weather meetings, and ten't out of it despite howards the end of lest season and Dena Jones, who note him to two of those watereas—one at this track — is agent on board. The four-year-old comes here fit from a recent Southwell run. Armie Esey, who note Marthul last year, teams up won Fourdened and Peter Hams's runner has each-way prospects on his opening run of last season when better a length and threequanters by hoppy Westin in a field of 16 at Ripon in April. Angel Face scored in good style at Wokerhampton Itas Sarurday and is only 3to higher here with the 5to penatry.

Selection: BREAK THE RULES

4.40 MELTON WOOD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 370 1m (Straight) Penalty Value £3,850 O. BURRING TRUTH (250) (169) (A NOLARIN R CHAPTER 9 0 7 Sprake 4
32- PLY TO THE STARS (125) (P D Sankin M Journson 9 0 1 Memory 5
600- 627 THE PORTY (128) (P E Bigg) R Holmonead 9 0 1 D Sankin (3) 5
600- 627 THE PORTY (128) (P E Bigg) R Holmonead 9 0 1 D Sankin (3) 5
600- 627 THE PORTY (128) (P E Bigg) R Holmonead 9 0 1 D Sankin (3) 5
600- APRIL, MCREON (257) (R N Februali P Datum 8 9 1 D Sankin (5) 7
600- APRIL, MCREON (257) (R N Februali P Datum 8 9 1 N Fabruali (5) 7
600- APRIL, MCREON (257) (R N Februali P Datum 8 9 1 N Fabruali (5) 7
61- ARBOREAU (125) (120) (M S Griteris Nr.) (1500) 8 9 1 N Fabruali (5) 7
62- ARBOREAU (125) (120) (M S Griteris Nr.) (1500) 8 9 1 N Fabruali (5) 7
63- ARBOREAU (125) (120) (M S Griteris Nr.) (1500) 8 9 1 N Fabruali (5) 7
64- ARBOREAU (125) (120) (M S Griteris Nr.) (1500) 8 9 1 N Fabruali (150) (1500) 8 9 1 N Fabruali (150) 8 1 N Fabruali (150) 

FIXEN CLED'S

FI

#### WINCANTON

2.15 Midnight Legend 2.45 Dream Ride 3.15 Fools Errand 3.50 Motoqua 4.20 King's Treasure 4.50 Northern Starlight 5.20 Noisy Miner

Each-way a guarter the oatts, places 1, 2, 3

GOING: (feed to Firm (Firm in places).

Right hard, galoging course, human of 200yds.

Course is NE of four on BRIST, Templecombe station (service four Lorden, Waterburt Int, ADMISSION; Members 512.50)
James Members, 11 to 22 years, 27. Tattersals 58 (Sudients 54), Course rand cars in course) 54 (Under the Irection all enclosures) CAR PARK: Fire.

SIS. Burne

SLINGERED FIRST TIME: Fools Errand (1944rd, 3.15).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN CATS: None,
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Gobalino Ght (1.75) has been sent

| 11  | 4 miles by | First from Warningthi, Was Super-  |
|-----|------------|--|
|     | 2.15       | BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY MAID<br>EN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2n |
| 1   | 00         | CLASSIC MODEL (14) 1742 6 11 2 5 14 144                                  |
| 1.2 | 0-66       | COMMUTER COUNTRY (13) C Baroco 6 11 2. JR Kaymond                        |
| 3   |            | DETRIBUTE MCK (108) D Namotion 6 11 7 R Measey (3                        |
| 4   | 3:         | BARNANDAENT (14) (BF) 11 Honderson 7 11 7.M A Plagerali                  |
| 5   | 0          | GEORGETOWN (20) J Griony 6 11 2 P Hade                                   |
| 6   | P.S        | HE KNOWS THE PLACES (BS) R BLONE 5 11 2 S Power                          |
| 'n  |            | HERALEA INCO (20) Mess S Edwards 5 11 2 L Aspell (3                      |
| 8   | 4          | MEDINGHT LEGEND (21) D Nativison 6 11 ? R Johnson                        |
| 9   | 3:3173     |  |
| 10  | P26        |  |
| 11  | 00-005     |  |
| 12  | 2          | RING OF VISION (14) C Mann 5 11 7  |
| 13  | 5:0        | CHILERARNE (28) Mes H Day 8 10 11 M Foote                                |
| 14  |            | OSCILIGHTS GIFT Mark Campion 5 10 11                                     |

|   | 2.45    | CORTON DENHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS<br>E) £4,500 added 2m 5f  |
|---|---------|---|
| • |         | DREAM RIDE (19) D Notoson 7 11 10   |
| 2 | P-G45UP | GIVUS A CALL (AB) J Griory 7 11 3 Asped (3  |
| Ē | 1064-57 | MALWOOD CASTLE (13) R Aber 7 11 3   |
| 4 | 41006P  | POCAPE GAOTHE (37) C Panam 7 11 3 T Describe (3   |
| 5 | PORTU-5 | RADIO HECK (14) Mark Campion & 11 3 Radios  |
| 6 |         | SAN DIEGO CHARGER (BO) A Banow 6 11 3 P Holley - 6 declared -   |
|   |         | ns Droem Ride, 6-4 Matwood Castle, 100-30 Givus A Call<br>ck, 25-1 San Diego Charger, Pochine Bacithe |

3.15 STEWART TORY AMATEUR H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D)E6,000 added 3m 1f 110yds - 4 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Senicy Bay, 6-4 Fools Errand, 7-2 Spring To it

Fifty four horses have been left in the Grand National 15 April at the latest furfeit stage. Master Oats is top weight with 11st 10th but runs only if the ground is soft. If he course out, the weights will rise either to 15th - leaving Nabilen Lad, who must pass a blood test this work to go to Aintree, and Challenger Du Luc, jet to be confirmed a runner, at the head of the handleap - or 20th leaving

| POI DE  | ICE, AP-1 MAIN & GROOD   |
|---------|--|
| 5.      | 20 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NH FLA<br>RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m |
|         | 1 NOSSY MINIER (28) (CD) D Nichalson 5 11 11 R Massey (              |
| 1 2     | FIVE BOYS R Hodges 5 11 4 1 Descende C                               |
| 3       | LIFE'S WORK P Hotels 5 11 4.   |
| 4       | LITTLE BEAU Mrs J Young 6 11 Mr A Charles-Jone                       |
| 5       | LONGSTONE LAD & Edwards 5 11 1                                       |
| 6       | MASTER RIVER D (Esworth & 11 4                                       |
| 7       | HORMANIA INCO Miss 5 Edwards 5 11 4Mr Y HE                           |
| 8       | SEE PROSPERTY Miss 5 Waterman 5 11 4N Williamston (                  |
| 9       | TOMARY THORSE G Prox 5 11 1  |
| 10      | KELLSBORO QUEEN R Bucker & 10 13                                     |
| 11      | SALLY SCALLY A House 5 10 13   |
| 12      | (16 SPLASH OF BLAKENEY [42] S Kright 6 10 13S Anderso                |
| 2.3     | TECHNICAL MOVE 6 Ham 6 10 13 S Burrous                               |
| 14      | DUTCHERS DOUTTLE F Judger 4 10 10 M Getfilles (                      |
| 15      | FESTIVAL (FR) A Jones < 10 10S Mobile                                |
| RETTE   | G: 1/2 Noisy Miner, 9-2 Mister River, 7-1 Five Boys, 12-1 Fest       |
| vad, To | many Tickie, 14-1 Kellsboro Queen, Selly Scally, 20-1 others         |

#### PLUMPTON

HYPERION 2.25 Eau De Cologne 2.55 Jovial Man 3.25 Zadok 4.00 Flight Lieutenant 4.30 Black Church 5.00 Mazirah

GOING: Good to Firm ( Good in home straight). GUIDNES FARAL TO Parm Grand in forme Straighth.

Left-hand, unrightening course with sharp bends. Tricky down-inflifence in tack straight. Upbill run-in of 2007ds.

Course is off ACTS south of Haywards Heath, Plampton staten adjoint source, ADMISSSOON Members 5 to Tauersalls 20; Course 55, CAR PARK, \$4 (centre of course) & \$1.

SLINEERED FIRST TIME: Mr Lovely (1980).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE: None.
LONG-OISTANCE BUNNERS; Sharrow Ray 14, 401 & Prince Of
Spuden 15-001 have been sen 200 miles by A Hobbs from Rivelbridge, Flevon; Midminum (1925) wen 125 miles by T Hand from Lyn-

2.25 PEASE POTTAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

E) \$3,000 added 2m 4f

1 00% BERT (0) TOkes 6112. JA McCarby
2 636-059 CLOSK WATCHER SOR) Jerden 9 117 . D Monts
3 3: EAU DE COUDENE ISS) Jerden 9 117 . D Monts
4 PRINTS AFFAIR (17) Princips 7 112 . M Calmon (7)
5 UOSP KYBUS PREVINCE (2D) RRUSS 6112 . D O'Sallivan
6 6335-3 LORD MELIS (10) NOS T Crance 6 112 . . . T J Marphy
7 PREVINEY ALL RENT (19) Sono Earle 6 112 . . . T J Marphy
8 1300 PROTUTYPE (14) GOTTEN Hughton 6 112 . . . D Balleghar
9 380 YANG TRUE (19) Sono Earle 6 112 . . . D Balleghar
10 32-05% MAYLEN MARSO (2B) TESS 6 20 11 . . . D Bridgenhar
11 PROLISTIATE | Pron Hoyes 6 10 11 . . . D Bridgenhar
12 declarate
13 DAMES FIRST (55) Physical 4 10 F . . . . B Dove (7)
14 declarate
15 ETTIME: 5-4 Earl De Cologne, 2-1 Lord Miles, 11-2 Marylin Magic, 8-1
Prototype, 16-1 Kybo's Revenge, 33-1 others

2.55 CUCKFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 5f

2-3,500 3006 2011 51 \_\_\_\_\_ D 0'Sdissen
5-7233 SMFM (29) 1 Notice 8 11 9 \_\_\_\_\_ D 0'Sdissen
5-7233 SMFM (29) 1 Notice 8 11 9 \_\_\_\_\_ D 0 dispersion
5-7620 2014 MAN (29) 6 0'Subur 5 11 5 \_\_\_\_\_ D 0 district
5-74-72 PRELIMBERTARIA (23) 1 Cose; 8 10 6 \_\_\_\_ A McCretty 6
F641UP 000'080 QML (29) (0) R Outs 10 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_ D Month
10'679-70 NOUNG AUTE (29) 10'N R Outs 10 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_ D Month
00'679-70 ROBAL AUTE (29) 10'N R Outs 10 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_ D Month
1-2004 SALCOMBE HARBOUR (26) 0' P Pottbart 23 10 0 .\_\_\_\_\_ - 8 deciared -

Mingram seight 10st Title handcap seight Regal Aura 9st Str., Sakomba Peritor Sci Git.
BETTINE: 7-4 Juviel Mart, T-2 Regal Aura, 5-1 Simply, 6-1 Perferenter-lan, 13-2 Selfoli Road, 10-1 Oxford Quill, 25-1 others

3.25 MARCH SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m 1f 30775 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (10) T Case, 5 11 to \_\_\_\_\_ S Ryan (I 

Minimum reight 10st True handtap weight Scalp Em 9st 13/b, Tigana 9st BETTING: 5-2 General Shirley, 3-1 Tomal, 7-2 Sattleship Bruze, 9-2 Zadok, 20-1 Varborough Lad, 14-1 Anif, 16-1 Nichaman, 25-1 Scalp Em, 33-1 Tigana, High Burnshot

4.00 WEATHERBYS DATA SERVICES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m G-1262.1 PLIGHT LIEUTENANT (19) (D) 1 Case, 8 12 0 ... D Bridgeniter (5000-6 PRUT TOWN (100) P State 8 11 2 ... Ar S Dwards (7) P State 8 11 2 ... Ar S Dwards (7) P SZPSU P BOORS P STORE (17) MB 7 C POST 11 2 MF R Thornton (7) (2000-7) TN PAN ALLEY (31) D Gressel 8 11 2 ... P Hendey (5) - 5 declared -SETTING: 1-3 Fight Lieutenant, 7-2 Robins Pride, 12-1 Fruit Town, 16-1

4.30 HAILSHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 3m 1f 110yds 

5.00 LEWES AMATEUR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 4f

7 OGD-5 PREACE OF SPADES (240) A Hobbs 5 10 1 Mr & Shookin (7) 8 PROSED: BAYLOND PRINCE (250) (3) Mr.) [ Juny 9 10 D. Mr.) Goldstein (7) 8 declared - BETTING: 15-8 Aburys Gracines, 9-4 Kelly Maio, 13-2 Maxima, 7-1 Marg's Gold, S-1 Prince Of Spades, 12-1 Gone For Lunch, 14-1 Mr Lovely, 25-1

EXETER LAC LENT CRIEF CRIEF 6-13 for 2. Rome of Chann 6-1: 3. Sessionin Wind 16-1: 11 man. 8, 6, 14 Paper Total: \$1.50; 14-20; \$1.70; \$1.60; Rome Forecast \$3.30; Campater Straight Forecast \$4.86; Their \$4.80.

250. L THUST DEED ID SERVI 14-1; 2.
250. L THUST DEED ID SERVI 14-1; 2.
Cariman Corfe 14-1; 2. Carrinove Lad 41 for. 24 mm. 10, 27-15 Kragm. Topic
23.30 fg. 70, 54.20, 62-90 0F, 67-210.
CSF: £188.04, Yanad: £863.56, Thoi Last: £18804. THINKE 2005.TO. 100. £13850. Non Rowert Soor Robert. £200 £18000 BOARD Dave. Bruss 9-£2.50 ¥006 £2.1.3. Blandard 3-1 it few. 10 ann. 3-1 f few Name Excel (Sen. No. 27. Airy Ligania (Sens. Soc. 56.40; £1.70.

£2.80, £1.50, DF: £44.60, GSE £51.72, To. CSST 5171.60. Trice 621.80. 3.50: 1 THUMBS UP (R Hobson) 9-4: 2 Poldeti Pride 5-2; 3. Alpine Song 33-1. 4 ran. 5-4 tay Fine Harvest (4th), 1-4, 5. (C McCourt). Total £3.00. DF: £2.40. CSF:

£7.20. 4.20: 1 THOTOPS (Ness S Vicien) 5-2 4.20: 1. TIMOTOPS (Miss S Victory) 5-2 tor. 2. Sistem 20-1: 3. The Middle Interest 100-30: 12 res. 12: 1. (Mrs. R Victory). Tota: 54.80: E.1.50. £4.70. £1.50. Df: £51.20. CSF: £50.98: Tor. £83.10. Mrs. Absolutelin, Charles Contained Confessions. Clever Shepherd, Qualitar Memory.

4.50: L COOL GUNNER (C Mause) 7-4 8.1.7 cm. 3, 4, 11 kmg. Tota: \$250; \$2.00. \$1.50. DF; \$2.90. CSF: 56.79.

Jackpot: 16.362.00. Place & £47.49. Place & £36.01. LUDLOW

2.00:1. CHEF MOUSE IF Floor 4-5 to:
2. Night Boot 5:1; 3. Aminon 8:1; 9 ran.
2%, 3. Ones H Wegen, Totas £1.50; £1.10,
£1.40, £2.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £4.29.
Yes: £6.20. NRS: Ruffs Gamble; Theil.
2.30:1. FOXGROVE (Y. Azzurul 16-1; 2.
Thumped 3:1:3. Sectod 9:4.6 ran. 7-4 for Too Sharp, 4, 13, (R Price), Total: £12.30, £2.70, £1.70, DF: £10.10, CSF; £53.23, Non Runner Hougell.

3.00: 1 ABOVE THE CUT (C Levelyn) 158 to: 2 Mathembers 11: 1: 3. Desert Colon

RACING RESULTS £17 45. Triczer: EBB.08. Tro: T49 70. Non

3.30: 1. BLUE CREEK INV N Bradeys 9-2: 2. Landskir Mische 12: 1; 3. Minelin Ex-press 9-4 fer, 18 ran. 16, 4. (Filteron). Febr. 18:50; £2:50, £2:80, £1:30, DP: £31:90. CSP: £50:29. Tro: £26:60, NP: Watche Lad. 4.00: 1. CRANDON BOULEVARD U CA-locy 3-1 ft fav; 2. Submeet 100-30; 3. No-ble Colours 10-1. 8 ran. 3-1 g fav Meg 9 £3.80; £1.60, £1.30, £1.70, DF: £4.50, CSF:

7-1.8 ran. 1%, 18. IC Monock). Tobs: £2.30; 8-1.9 ran. S. 24. (Symon Earlet, Tobs: £4.40; £1.10, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £4.80 CSF: £1.80, £1.30, £1.50. DF: £4.80 CSF: £13 80. Tho: £5.10. £00: 1 MAYDAY LAUREN IS Wyore) 5-1; 2. Sandville Ltd 50 1; 3, Rajadora 15-1; 13, ran, 11:8 fay Homme de Fer. 4, nd. (A. Sailey), Tota: £7.50; £2.00, £5.60.

per Meust. Frux £239,00 (part won, pool of £306,41 to Concester £30 (nday). Piecepoti £43.10. Quadant £3.50. Place S: £26.93. Place 5: £22.37 TOWCESTER #2 THE CUT (Clienchy) 154.30: 1. NER SHARGEL (R Juhnson) 4-1: 1: 2. Heading Grove 11-4; 3. Boy Blakene)
borg 11: 1: 3. Desert Color.
2. Firstey Fiyer 11-4 (ax; 3. Prize Marks) 9-4 fev. 11 ran. 5, 17. (D Withard, New

53 80 DE \$127.10 CSF \$222.89 NR Gra

2.10:1. DERRYBELLE (Mr S. Durack) 33-

bury), Tota: £42,90; £5,80, £1,60, £1,40, DF: £82.00, CSF: £112.56. The: £160.00 rpool of £33.81 to Doncaster £30 todayl. 2.40: 1. GROOVING IR Durwoody) 10-11 Tor; 2. Sleazey 20-1: 3. Just Bruce 5-2. 4 ran. 12, 4. U Gifford, Findoni. Tota: £1 70. DF: £9.90 CSF: £10.62.

3.10: 1. THE TOISEACH (I Ostorne) 11-4 g fav: 2. Wasel Street 11-4 g fav; 3. Boh's Play 7-1, 6 ms., 7, 2½. (I Fanshawe, New-markst). Tota: £3.60; £2.40, £2.50. DF: 5 cm. Ces. Farsh. £5.60. CSF: £9.20. 3.40: 1. HARRISTOWN LADY IS CIMORDI 100-30; 2. Fast Thoughts 11-6 fay, 3. Respers Rock 10-1. 4 ran. 15, 4, 46 Boating, Fylicidi, Tota: 14.50; £5.20, DF. £4.00. CSF. £7.71. NR; Don't Light Up.

£402.62. Inc: £83.80, NR: The Bozo 2. Nickelton Lad 7-2; 3. Bollinger 4-7 tov. 4 ran. 4, 17t. IMrs R Lamperd, Menborough. Total: £8.30. OF: £7.00. CSP: £25.38. 5.10; 1. STORMYFARWEATHER; M A Fittgerald) 2:1; 2. Lord Rooble 5-4 fav. 3. Fashbon Moker 5-2 6 ren. 1·4, dist. IN Hen-derson. Lambourn. Totac £2.80; £1.70, £1.30. DF: £2.60, CSF: £4.76.

Place 6: £102.08. Place 5: £420.48

4.10: 1 DISSOLVE JMr I Baker 7-1; 2 Positivo 10:1: 3. Mr Poppleton 6:1. 9 ran. 5-2 tav Ferrers (5th). 1%, 1%, 1% IN Lampard, Marborought Total: £7.70; £2.50, £3.40, £1.50, £7. £22 20, £5F. £64.87. Treast 0891 261 970

'We still have a house near Lake Como, so that is one possibility, although I could also be playing in England or Spain, or just about anywhere. It depends on how I feel at the end of the season'

Despite speculation following Tuesday's news that he is leaving Bayern Munich, Jürgen Klinsmann tells lan Stafford that his footballing future is far from settled

either. He is happy, if in the mood, to talk at length about any subject, and it does not need to be football-related.

As I said. Jürgen Ki ordinary footballer. He On the day we met at Bayern Mu-

nich's training beadquarters, the man Germany. Never mind the fact that be was clearly mulling over his eventual decision to announce on Tuesday that he would be leaving Bayern Munich at the end of the season, he was keen to get across bis emotions

on such a provocative occasion.
"The players and I asked if we could visit the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem." be revealed within moments of greeting me. "Even though we were hased in Tel Aviv. our manager, Bertie Vogts, who's very openminded, agreed. We have a lot of players in the German team right now who have many interests outside football, and we may never get another chance to play in Israel again.

We wanted to get an idea of how things are seen in Israel," he conduues. "It was a very emonional experience for us all. We were shown the most horrific pictures, and it was explained to us what took place. It was horrible to see, and I felt pretty had afterwards. I grew up in Germany, and this happened because of my nation."

For a couple of bours, then, Klinsmann and company were not footballers mindful of the hig game ahead, but ordinary people paying their respects? "Oh, totally." he has had everyone speculating, especially replies. Of course my generation in after his latest announcement. Even

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As I said. Jürgen Klinsmann is no ordinary footballer. He and his American wife, Debbie, are expecting their first child this June and it seems apwho beld aloft the European Championsbip trophy last summer at Wemblev had just returned from a visit to
Israel on international duty with

Second Visit 1998 World Cup, and at club level a year or two later - Klinsmann will not

be running a pub.

"I will take a hig step away from the game and study a couple of courses." he says. "I want to become

'My French, my Italian and my English all need to improve. I think I will study all three'

good at computers, and also improve my languages." Any in particular? "My French," he says, before adding: "My Italian too, and I think my English still needs to improve. Yes, I will

Then, after a year, I will discover whether I want to explore new interests, or whether I can't live without football. At the moment I am in the centre of the game, but it would be good to stand back for a year and look at the whole business from a distance." It is his more immediate future that

ürgen Klinsmann can never be ac-cused of being ordinary. Not on the pitch, and most certainly not off it are responsible to make sure that it wants to leave Germany, preferably returning to the Premiership where he

made such an impact at Spurs.

He admits his time at Bayern has been far from settled. "By December last year I had reached the end of my tether." be says. "Although we won the Uefa Cup last season, we had also thrown away the championship. I was not happy about the way we were

Everything was a slow build-up, and I had problems just getting bold of the ball. The club seemed to be more concerned about the business side than the game itself, and I didn't like this aspect at all. I'm a straightforward person, and I told the club of-

public on German television and told the people how I felt. I said that I would only take so much, and then I would leave. I was asked if I could imagine playing elsewhere, and I said yes, because you never know what's

going to happen next in football.

The next thing I knew the club had leaked the details of my contract to the press, I was very interested to read all about my personal details in the newspapers. I have a clause which allows me to leave whenever I like. It gives me my independence. I can do whatever I want to. After this, things had to improve. For a while, they did. The team was playing less defensively. and I was scoring goals again, but it is clear I still do not fit in here."

This stand has provoked a storm in a country not used to such resistance. It has even hit the German press. "I have a case in court at the moment with Bild, our big, and only tabloid newspaper. Klinsmann adds. "They wrote something very wrong about me during the European Championship. I told them that they can donate a few

thousand marks to a children's charity, or I would take them to court: They've never really had these kind of problems before from a footballer, so I've ended up taking them to court." He shrugs his shoulders and smiles. "Now they are learning a little more about me. Prior to his latest announcement,

Blackhurn were supposed to have nearly signed him. Not so, according forward person, and I told the club officials what I thought. They all agreed
with me, and then did nothing. Meanwhile, I seemed to get the blame for
the way we were playing from the German media and even from the club.

"In the end f had enough. I went

"In the end f had enough. I went The truth is that not even Klins-

mann knows where he will be next season. With his freedom of contract, be can choose where he likes. "My future depended on what happened at Bayern," he says. "Things have not improved here sufficiently since December. We were top of the league.

but now find ourselves in second place. I've never won a league championship with any team I've ever played for, so it's very important to me.

"I definitely won't play for another German team. Bayern is the No!!

club here. It's the highest level you can reach in Germany. But I could and I want to win a championship. But He is a free spirit, that's it's sure. And and I want to win a championship. But He is a free spirit, that's it's sure. And and I want to win a championship. But He is a free spirit, that's it's sure. And place. I've never won a league cham-

playing in England or Spain, or just remains. Suggest to him that the Pre-about anywhere. It depends on how miership and the international stan-I feel at the end of the season:"

He has no qualms about returning to England then, even if he left Spurs fence of the English under a cloud? "I don't have any prob- "Maybe a couple of definitely the right decision for me to leave. Leguld see it would take Spurs a few years to have a team capable of - eiga players they have learned quickly.

'It would be good to stand back for a year and look at the whole business from a distance

championship is often decided on the bench, but they did not want to invest for training. Everybody at the club, in more players. Now they have some from a walter to a track-suited, midinjuries this season, and do not have de aged member of the management. the players good enough to replace the inode at him appreciatively as he likes of Teddy Sheringham, Darren makes his way out on to the nitch. Anderton and Gary Mahbuit. That is Whatever, their differences, the club

His affection for the English game remains. Suggest to him that the Pre-

dard is below other European levels

"Maybe a couple of years ago the lems with Alan Sugar, if that's what Premiership was behind Serie A, the vou mean," he says. "I understand why Burdesliga and the Spanish League, he was appear when I left, but it was but not anymore;" he insists. The English have changed their mentality, and by introducing all the good for-

winning a championship. They have The only people who don't seem seven or eight quality players, but that to respect English football are the is not enough to win a league. A English themselves They have no idea how high their reputation is abroad. People think they are only coming good now, but don't forget Germany were very hicky to beat them in the World Cup semi-final soven years upo Even back then England had very tal-ented and tethnical players.

Your problem is that as soon as you lose a game your confidence disappears. You are far too critical of vourselves. England and casily have beaten Italy, there was no difference between the two sides at all."

With this, Klinsmann has to leave

end up playing in Italy again. I liked I am still in constant touch with peo- not even he knows quite what is gomy time in Italy, and we still have a ple like Teddy. Gary, and even Gering to take place near in his extraorhouse near Lake Como, so that is one ry Francis. We are all friends.

#### Souness' decision proves costly

CLIVE WHITE

Southampton

It smacked of a gamble at the last-chance saloon for Graeme Sourcess, but his decision to drop Matt Le Tissier from his starting line-up failed to pay off at Stamford Bridge last night and, by the Southampton manager's own reckoning, they now need to win half of their remaining

eight games to stay up.
Chelsea, caught between League ambitions and pre-serving themselves for their FA Cup semi-final against Wimbledon, were there to be beaten. Southampton, who have won just three of their last 21 League games since the heady days of that 6-3 win over Manchester United, could count themselves unlucky not to have come away with at least a point.

The emergence of Le Tissier from the bench after 52 minutes made no discernible difference as Southampton continued to press as they had throughout the econd balf to no avail

The timing of Le Tissier's de-motion could not have come at a worse moment for the Channel Islander, with the announcement today of the England squad to face Mexico at Wembley on Saturday week.

For better or worse, the lan-guid one must bope that Glenn Hoddle has already made up his mind on that score, but it is hard to imagine Le Tissier getting anguished about anything.

In his absence, there was certainly a more husinesslike look about Southampton, and they went to Chelsea from the start, as indeed they were obliged to do giving their perilous League position. The much-maligned Frode Grodas in Chelsea's goal needed to be quick off the mark to deny Matthew Oakley min-ntes after an Eyal Berkovitch cut-back from the byline had

gone begging.
As is their way, Chelsea's forward quality managed to alleviate the mounting pressure on a defence in which Erland Johnsen, standing in for the sus-pended Franck Leboeuf, was

particularly ill at ease. Roberto Di Matteo had just sent one shot dipping over the bar when Chelsea went ahead after 22 minutes, courtesy of fellow Italian Gianfranco Zola.

His strike brought him level on 11 goals with Gianluca Vialli and Mark Hughes as be whipped the ball home after the latter had chested down a long

Clearance into his path.

Chelsee (4-4-2): Godes: Sncler, Clerke, Johnson, Burley, Penescu. D. Morteo, Wise, P. Hughes (Parker, 697; M. Hughes, Zota, Sobethatos not used: Myora, Valk, Morna, Colgan (glo. Southampton (4-4-2): Taylor; Van Gobbel, Accison, Dyden, Charlton (Benet, Til); Santer, Berkentch, Migun, Oaley (a. Tesser, S2); Ostenstad, Evera, Subestitutes not used: Moddeson, Bachum, Belgant (glo.)

Rafferees: S Ludge (Barmsley)

### Liverpool stay safety conscious

Whenever Liverpool have approached a match in Europe this season, one team seems to intrude on their preparations. They meet SK Brann of Norway tonight in the European Cup-Winners' Cup at Anfield, but the memory of Brondby will be playing on their minds.

On the face of it, an indus-

trious but ordinary Brann ought to provide few problems for Liverpool who, after a 1-1 draw in the away leg in Bergen, will progress to the semi-finals with something as mundane as a scoreless draw. Simple, except the circumstances virtually mirror last season's Uefa Cup tie when Brondby got a late goal at Anfield and precipitated what is known on Merseyside as Black November.

Liverpool's March has been murky enough, with a defeat at Aston Villa, a draw against Nottingham Forest and a structural collapse against Newcastle that was only underpinned at the last

**Guy Hodgson** finds memories of Brondby weighing heavily at Anfield

Brondby-type reverse, bowever, would evoke darker thoughts of another trophyless season, not withstanding their second place

in the Premiership.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said vesterday the emphasis would be on attack. with safety an underlying priority. Brann, after all, will have to take risks in the latter stages if neither side has made a breakthrough by then.

"It's pointless trying to get a 0-0 draw out of it," Evans said. That's suicidal. You end up with a Brondby situation where someone gets a late goal and you're out. We have to try and win the game from the start but be sensible about it - we can't

"silly goals" that have dragged back Liverpool's thrilling attacking play in recent matches. "We are going to be concen-trating on the way our defence is set up, rather than on individ-uals," he said. "We don't mark man for man, but we're aware

they have dangerous players." Evans is notoriously loath to make changes and, with Bjorn Tore Kvarme ineligible, he implied yesterday his replacement will be the only change to his side. Phil Babb, Steve Harkness and Neil Ruddock are potential replacements, the latter most intriguingly as one Brann player this week described him as un-

fit to play professional football. Brann's concerns, other than an angry Ruddock, centre around the striker Mons Ivar Mjelde, who has scored six goals in the competition so far and who instigated a comeback against Liverpool when he came on in Sergen. Then an illness releave ourselves wide open." duced him to substitute, ton
Evans' priority is to avoid the a knee injury is the worry. duced him to substitute, tonight

# heads for Wearside

ALAN NIXON AND PHIL SHAW

**Palmer** 

Sunderland hope to complete the £1.5m signing of Carlton Palmer, the Leeds and former England midfielder, in time for him to face Nottingham Forest at Roker Park on Saturday.

Ian Rush, who has scored only three goals for Leeds since moving from Liverpool, is another target for the Sunderland manager, Peter Reid. Everton and Nottingham Forest are also thought to be keen on Rush.

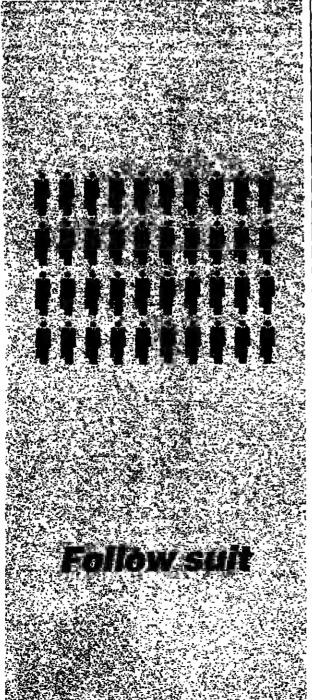
Another likely departure from Elland Road is Tony Yeboah, although his agent yes-terday denied German reports that his client is poised for a return to the Bundesliga. The Ghanaian international joined Leeds from Eintracht Frankfurt two years ago and has been linked with a return there.

Nigel Clough has returned to Manchester City after a three-month loan spell with his for-mer club, Nottingham Forest. The Republic of Ireland man-ager, Mick McCarthy, bas

called up a part-timer from the League of Ireland club, Shelbourne, for the World Cup qualifier against Macedonia in Skopje on 2 April. Stephen Geoghegan, a 26-year-old service engineer with a Dublin mohile phone company, is the first player from the League to be called up for a competitive game for his country since November 1985.

This is a great boost for my-self. Shelbourne and the League of Ireland," Geoghegan said. He scored both goals for the League's representative side in a 2-0 victory over the England semi-professional side in Dublin earlier this month. Squad, Digest, page 27





# Dalglish keen on new recruits

ALAN NIXON

Kenny Dalglish yesterday admitted that Newcastle United need to show a marked improvement before they can win European trophies - but his immediate concern lies on the domestic from. To this end. he is set to make Georgia's midfield schemer Temur Ketsbaia his first signing for Newcastle United

this weekend. Dalglish is poised to tie up a move for the AEK Athens player, whose contract expires in the summer and who available at a cut-price £300.000. Ketsbaia is travelling to Tyneside to sign a pre-contract agreement and will arrive permanently in the

Sheffield United have been trying to sign Ketshaia, but the player wants to move to the Premier League and is delighted to be joining Newcastle. For now, though, he will stay with AEK and help them in their quest for the European Cup-Winners'

Cup and the Greek title. Dalglish is desperate to recruit new players but has been frustrated so far. He has little money to spend and is scouring Europe for hargains.

The Newcastle manager whose side were outclussed by Monaco in the Ucfa Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday, was at the European Cup de between Juventus and Norway's Rosenborg Trondheim last night looking at more targets for the summer. Dalglish gave due praise to selves," he said.

Monaco after the French League leaders heat the Magpies 3-0 to complete a 4-0 aggregate win - but Newcastle's long-term planning will take secand place behind the short-term necessity of qualifying for next season's European campaign. We've got to succeed at

bome first and take it from there," Dalglish, whose side are fourth in the Premiership, Newcastle have nine League

games left - starting with Sun-day's tough trip to Wimbledon. Dalglish expects his players to bounce back from their European disappointment against Joe Kinnear's men. They're professional footballers and they should be able to lift them-

1 will to 1:50 1

# Puskas's crowning glory was humiliation of arrogant England

down when manager of Arsenal included a weekly film show of football matches chosen to illustrate technical variations and tactical

Whatever was shown on the screen at Highbury, the players clamoured to see one example above all others. The requests for a goal scored by Ferenc Puskas for Hungary in their 6-3 rout of England at Wennbley on 25 November 1953 were an

to see that one. Seeing the boss embarrassed by Puskas was all part of which remains the most famous, bethe scene. But even though I cringed cause the manner of its execution every time I saw myself lunging in captured the full flourish of

my admiration for Puskas's skill." One of that small band, no more in history as truly great players.

Puskas is today attending a lunch at Wembley to celebrate his 70th birthday and announce the publication of a second autobiography.

lt recalls a misty afternoon that left English lootball in a state of shock.

Deficiencies born of arrogant insolarity were vividly exposed as a great Hungarian team employing in-"in" joke at Highbury, because it showed the great inside-forward making a fool out of Wright before he fired the ball-past Gil Merrick.

Wright recalled: "The boys loved Puskas, Hungary's captain, scored Puskas, Hungary's captain, scored

Pusicas, Hungary's captain, scored twice. But it was the first of his goals

That it involved the contempts ous dismissal of Wright was stonthan 10 to my mind, who stand out ningly significant. The Wolver-in history as truly great players, hampton Wanderers half-back was more than just England's captain. Blond, sturdy, athletic, uncompromising but unswervingly fair, he typ-ified a widespread perception of the English professional footballer. The sight of him confused by Puskas's trickery underlined the extent of England's humiliation.

They were a goal down within a minute, Nandor Hidegkuti's savage strike after a central thrust making nonsense of the popular theory that Continental players could not shoot. Jackie Sewell equalised for England, but by the 28th minute they were trail-ing 4-1. The third goal announced Puskas's impending greatness.



when Sandor Kocsis switched play to Zohan Czibor, who went past Bill Eckersley before sending in a low, diagonal centre that reached Puskas wide of the near post and about six yards from the goal-line. Concluding that it would be impossible for Puskas to turn back on goal, Wright

pounced. Puskas checked, dragged the ball back with the sole of his left foot and, with no more than a flicker of adjustment, fired a shot over Merrick's left shoulder.

From being comparatively unknown outside his homeland - typically, the warning signs of Hungary's success in the 1952 Olympic tournament had been ignored in England - Puskas had arrived. That match at Wemhley made my reputation." he said one night when we were looking back over his career. "Many things happened afterwards, but from then on I was a famous footballer.

Unfortunately for the game in England, too much attention was given to Puskas's individual brilliance. Young professionals of the day began immediately, the next morning they had seen when they should have they carried on as normal." been receiving an analysis of Hun-

gary's teamwork and tactics. chester United manager Dave Sex-ton was then playing for West Ham. The Hungarians were a real eveopener," he said this week. "I rememher going home on the they used Hidegkuti, who was a mar-vellous all-round player, as a deeplying centre-forward with Puskas and Kocsis as twin strikers. England had Harry Johnston at centre-half and I felt sorry for him because he didn't know whether to follow Hidegkuti or hold his position. It would have belped if one of the wing-balves [Wright and Jimmy

Most illuminating for Sexton was the realisation that strategy could be The former Chelsea and Man- critical. "Of course. Hungary had some tremendous individuals but the most impressive thing was the way their game was put together." he added. "Some progressive thinkers were coming into our football, hut Underground, trying to figure things out for myself. The big thing was that perience passed us by. We should have learned a lot more from it."

After the Budapest uprising ended Hungary's period of dominance. Puskas formed an alliance with the Argentinian virtuoso Alfredo Di Sufano that was central to Real Madrid's domination of the European Cup. But is there a triumph in his mind to compare with Wembley?

# Hopkins' exit puts Sussex in limbo

DAVID LIEWELLYN

Ken Hopkins, the Sussex chairman, resigned his position then changed his mind at a stormy AGM at Brighton's Grand Hotel last night.

By the end of a confused and heated meeting the club was left with the skeleton of a new committee hut constitutionally con-licitor Mike Long, had pointed fused. However, the meeting was a clear victory for the club's new order, which remains determined to take the club into the affairs without being unconstifuture but to do so they were forced to rewrite the rules. A special general meeting,

called by the county's former. fast bowler Tony Pigott and his supporters, is still scheduled for 8 April at Hove Town Hall although whether it will now be held - and last night's meeting clearly felt that staging it would result in a waste of time

> TODAY'S NUMBER

366,000

The number of tickets for or sold by lottery efter the erceived 290,000 applications by the 14 March deadline: As each applicant cen request up to eight tickets, the total may be around 2,000,000.

and money - is still unknown. But the old guard has gone, or rather it nearly bas Flopkins, the chairman of two weeks following the resignation of Alan Caffyn, originally agreed to re-sign along with the other three members of the old guard; once the mood of the meeting had made it clear that they would tolerate nothing less. But once the clob's legal adviser, the soout that the constitution required four elected members a decision soon. plus one officer in order to run ..

tutional, there was a change of: heart. They had the three newly elected members - the former captain Robin Mariar, Jim May and Dick Holste - plus the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who was re-elected president to serve as the officer, so the floor agreed to let Hopkins remain on the committee tem-

Then confusion set in with the meeting agreeing to change the constitution and reduce the quorum to three committee members and one officer. But once the meeting had closed af-ter more than two hours of heated and at times vitriolic debate, it was still unclear whether Hopkins was on or off the committee. Even he was confused.

It was eventually established that he was withholding his res-

with whom he spent 18 years before moving to Surrey a couple

of years ago.
"I'm very pleased with the outcome," Pigott said. "It's all about the members. Just by turning up in droves as they did tonight they showed they care about the future of Sussex." Pigoff would not say whether be would stand for election to the committee, or instead opt for a post of chief executive or its equivalent, but he has promised

At the start of the meeting none of the gang of four committee members was prepared to resign despite plenty of cocouragement to do so from the packed meeting. But once Frank Horan had aroused the passions of the assembled numbers, the outcome became inevitable. Horan had incensed the members when he referred to Pigott and his supporters as rabble-rousers".

· After · some · heated · exchanges, Horan made a premanure and dramatic exit some 45 minutes after the start of the meeting storming off the stage with the words: "You're very welcome to get on without me. 'Good-night to you all!" An unbappy day for Sussex had begun with the revelation

that the county secretary Nigel Betts was pictured in the latest edition of British Naturism. It endignation in case the committee ed with the vice chairman, Alan needed to call on him but that Wadey, accepting the inevitable in the second round by a counter would not be sitting on it.

Overall the night was a tribinate of Pigott who clearly kins to step down once the business to become involved in the meeting had been wants to become involved in the concluded.

of the Summinguale rounsomes in the second round by a counter from yesterday's defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's win on the Old. The course was tougher and the wind made it more difficult. The said. The said. The said is to test himself under competitions are gular of the instruction are gular of the instruction in the second round by a counter from yesterday's defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's win on the Old. The course was tougher and the wind made it more difficult. The said. The said is to test himself under competitions and the wind made it more difficult. The said. The said is to test himself under competitions are gular of the instruction are gular of the instruction in the second round by a counter from yesterday's defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's win on the Old. The course was tougher and the wind made it more difficult. The said. The said is to test himself under competition and the wind made it more difficult. The said. The said is to test himself under competition and the wind made it more difficult. The said is the second round by a counter from yesterday's defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's wind the wind made it more difficult. The said is the said in the second round by a counter from yesterday s defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's wind the wind made it more difficult.



# Mansell still seeking the right formula

ANDY FARRELL reports from Sunningdele

The car leaving the Sunningdale Golf Club yesterday lunchtime à la Nigel Mansell was indeed being driven by the former Formula One world champion. He and his partner John Putt, a lo- of the 15th fairway to go two cal member, were shunted out down, and that was about that.

ceeded where Paul Way failed the day before in winning 2 and 1. Though Mansell and Putt won both the holes on which they received shots, the steadiness of their opponents was decisive. There was rarely more than a hole in it, but Mansell leaked his drive into a pond on the right

couldn't find my swing and the tive conditions. That means cold does not help me.

"But I want to become a better player and this was a good experience. Our opponents played very well. You could see they were professionals in the way they never missed a fairway despite the wind. We didn't have any expectations of making the final - it was a bonus to get this far and it was a lot of fun."

playing in next week's medal at the club he owns. Woodhury Park, but one day it may mean attempting to qualify for the Open or, in seven years' time, trying the Senior Tour qualify-

It is everybody's dream to qualify for the Open." Mansell, who needs to lower his handicap of 2.6 before he can enter, said. nough to try Mansell probably learned more from yesterday's defeat on the New Course than Tuesday's former Ryder Cup player, but the New Course than Tuesday former Ryder Cup player, but the New Course than Tuesday former Ryder Cup player, but the New Course than Tuesday former Ryder Cup player, but the New Course than Tuesday former Ryder Cup player, but the New Course Ryder Ryder Ryder Ryder Ryder Ryder Ryder Putt, a one-time profession-

"He has got a wonderful head for the game," he said, "He needs to find a swing which is repetitive, which it wasn't in the wind today, but he is ferociously competitive. He thinks he can hole everything." Mansell was still trying to do

just that with his bunker shot at the short 17th. This was their third after Mansell had missed the green on the left and seen their opponents having at least al now reinstated as an amateur, two for the match, the thinks Mansell has what it takes. concession was inevitable.

#### Scotland roll over Welsh

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Scotland finished without a losing rink for the second successive day as they powered to a 144-94 win over Wales in Perth yesterday and issued notice to the holders. England, that they are determined to win the women's Home International title.

They opened up an early. 10-5 lead after the opening end, increased it to 35-15 by the close of the fifth end and by the half-way mark had virtually sealed their victory as they held a 48-shot advantage at 80-32.

Evelyn McGarvic, a Perth club player, returned the top score after a 27-13 victory over

Betty Morgan Jean Sykes beat Gill Miles 29-16, Annette Christie overcame Ann Dainton 25-14, and Roberta Hutchison, beat the former world outdoor champion, Janet Ackland, 24-14. FOOTBALL RESULTS

European Cup Quarter-fluxis second leg

usia Dortmund win 4-1 on aggregate

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Sumon 68

UNIDER LEAGUE COP Send-final first lag. Jon Paulie 2 Barty Jann 1.

Yesterday

Amonus van 35. Johannus van 3-1 on aggregate

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#### **Dutch destroy Britain**

England suffered their worstever defeat at the hands of the Durch Olympic champions in Karachi yesterday when they were beaten 6-0 in their third game in the Golden Jubilee Tournament, writes Bill Colwill. More than holding their own

in the opening exchanges, it was again a tale of missed opportunities at three early penalty. corners before the Dutch opened the scoring. Once the Durch bad taken the lead in the 27th minnte through Bram Lomans at a penalty corner, Eng-pool game today.

uphill battle. Even so, England had a lot of possession in the first half which ended with goalkeeper Jimmi Lewis making a brilliant save from Tycho van Meer

The second half was just three minutes old when the

WinestoniLEAD (GENT LEAGHE First Division: Sheppy Linked 3 Geometri Borough 2. AVON INSURANCE COMMINIATION First Di-vision: Bourneriough 1 Oxford Util 2 Bingfrom O Suspices Or Inswind 5 Bristol Rowers O, Nor-rioch 2 Tomerham 3; Southermotor 2 Luton O-fiables II Bosof City 1. League City: Swindon 1 Cardel O.

Marten Eikelboom scooped the ball into the net. A minute later, when Bobby Crutchley was blocked by Danny Bree. England were awarded a penal-

ty stroke, but Russell Garcia put his shot against the upright.
This blow was followed first by the temporary suspension of Hounslow's Guy Fordham, his third in successive matches, and then goals from Brock West and Stephan Veen.

pant and West and Veen both scored a second each. England play Australia in their final

pool game today.

BNGLAND: J. Levis Obserut: J. Walls (Feddington). A. Hassphrey (Carnook). B. Wasgington). A. Hassphrey (Carnook). B. Wasgin (Southgate), S. Samper (Cardook). Phylocok (Carnood), R. Samole (HDM, capt): A. Cruschley (Carnood), R. Pasins (Receing). Subschilates used: M. Cossey (Teddington), S. Hand (Lastinot), J. Levis (Old Lott)porthers), S. Hand (East Grandest). PETHERIANDS: R. Joneon; E. Jose; D. Beer, S. ven de Weide, D. Loote, S. Heessel); J. Dehnad, S. Vesn (Capt); T. ven Meer, B. Werne, J. Burna, Subschilates espect M. Elevison, B. Lorains, T. Meer, S. West.

J. Hassings: D. Pror (Aus.), Reshid (Nan (Pst)).

Dutch went further ahead when

#### **Halifax hire Pendlebury** as new coach

Rugby League

John Pendlebury has taken over as Halifax coach with a pledge to bring back the cohesion and club, writes Dave Hadfield.

Pendlebury, who has left Wigan's coaching staff in the continuing exodus from Central By now the Dutch were ram-

Unapires: D Pror (Aus), Reshit Khan (Pali).

SPORTING DIGEST

sense of direction of the glory days that he shared with the

Park, spent part of his playing career with Halifax, appearing in the 1987 Challenge Cup final and making an unforgettable

match-saving tackle.
"The big plus that was in place
at Thirum Hall was the teamwork," Pendlehury said. "Our coach, Chris Anderson, made great play of people being unselfish. That attitude showed on the pitch and that's wbat I'll be trying to achieve here." Pendlebury replaces Sieve

ifar Cup defeat by Keighley last month. He came up on the rails to earn the nod, just pipping Hull KR's Steve Crooks. Halifax have secured £400,000 of the grant aid that they will need to upgrade The Shay in order to sbare the ground with Halifax Town FC.

Simms, who resigned after Hal-

That still leaves the two clubs with a £100,000 shortfall. but Halifax still hope to be installed in time for their World Club Championship matches in July. The Halifax hooker. Paul Rowley, is being linked with a possible move to Wigan, as is the Bath scrum-balf, Ian Sanders.

Bath have been approached by Wigan, who see Sanders, after promising performances against them in the two crosscode matches last year, as a potential replacement for Sbaun Edwards. Wigan, who are still holding out for a fee from the London Broncos for Edwards, have also been in touch with Castleford over their transfer-

The British referee, Stuart Cummings, has been appointed to take charge of the Anzac Day Test between Australia and New Zealand in Sydney on

The state of the s

Jonathan Nserga, the Belgian hurdler, has been suspended for three months after testing positive for the stimulant, ephedine, at the world indoor cham-plenships in Paris.

Basketball MBA: Torror 1.17 Philippina 1.05; Indiana 1.15 Mannesota 97; Houston 97 New Jersey 89; New York 96 Vencouver 73; Chicago 98 Seate 81 (ed): Washington 66 Defin, 95; IA Cappers 1.21 Phoenix 1.11; Portland 92; Sacrametro 67.

SOUD FLANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Maxima) First rounds R Chapman (Engl b) P Sheshan Engl 4-1: R Folkhen (Aus) bit 1 Main, find! 4-0: C Smit (Engl b) A Shandship (Ind) 4-3; M Ruseld (Engl b) A Shandship (Ind) 4-3; M Ruseld (Engl b) A Jumphurwelle (Ind) 4-0; Seccual round; M Kothan (Ind) bit B Breaker (Ind) 4-3; M Petal (Ind) bit 3 Agrewal (Ind) 4-2.

WOMEN'S HOME INTERNATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPHONESHIP (Partit): Scotland by Wales 144-96 (Scotland to Monthin 20-13:) Combine to 98 Archanto to 18 Monthin 27-13:) Combine to 98 Archanto 28-18: Refurmed by Jackson 24-14: Ewinn drew with Rijones 19-19: A Change of A Demon 25-14: J Syles by C Miles 29-16.

Beechag
The British Board of Control have asked the World Boxing Council to order their super-middleweight champion, the Botton-based Robin Reid, make a mandatory defence of his title against Henry Wharton, of York. Football

Proctices Could (North Car qualifier v Beighum, Durdiff Arme Park, 29 Marchit Southal General, Chousiey (Notice) and Armethic Southal General, Chousiey (Notice) and French Southal General, Processing (Notice) and Armethic (Notice) and Park Rengalis, Symbous (Northelm (Notice) and Park Rengalis, Symbous (Northelm (Notice)) and Charles (Notice) and Charles (Notice)

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SUNNINGME FOURSOMES: New Courses Seeand rounds G. Smith, (Camberley Hearth and W.
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4; A Reynolds (Byas Contage Ports; and A Hat (San
Monon) bt. J. Putt (Sunningtale) and N. Marsell
(Monostur) Parks 2 and 15; Gallegers (Trentham
Parks and R. Felser (Newbastle-under-Lyme) bt. B.
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Marsteines (Jureheary) bt. A Clark (Old Fold Manon)

end N Lawrence (A1 Driving Range) one Irole; M Patters (Mai Rate) and G Welmstey (Duhas Drive) Is J Tucker (Mosplesdon) and G Nickman (Duhas Drive) Is J Tucker (Mosplesdon) and G Nickman (Dungton) 2 and 1: N Burke (Norshem) and W Graft (Chessington) iz P Cerr (Summerbiel) and R Nicotigenson (Larchardead) is M Searce (Lyme Regulard ) Published in Mosplesdon (Regulardead) is M Searce (Lyme Regulardead) and J Pounder (Mosples) and Searce (Lyme Regulardead) and 1: Notation (Commercial (Regulardead) 2 and 1: Nicotine) and D Jones (Mosplesdon) 3 and 2: J Robitstein (The Valenda III) All (Chessing) (Nicotine) is M Nicotine) and R Commercial (Nicotine) and 1: Nicotine) and R Commercial (Nicotine) and 1: S Murray (Charlottein Park) and R Lyme (Mellottein III) and Charlottein Park) and C Logger (Mesocials is Y Seevest (Wellottein) and Lumb (Mellottein) and Lumb (Mellottein) and M Wilson (Mid Quarter) and M Wilson (Mid Quarter) second (Index) 1: 1879 and M Wilson (Mid Quarter) and Mid Quarter) and Mid Quarter (Mid Quarter) and Mid Wilson (Mid Quarter) and M Wilson (Mid Quarter) and Mid Wilson (Mid Quarter) and M Wilson (Mid Quarter) and Mid Wilson (Mid Quarte Hockey

or creeks 3 are 1.2 s Mujny Crastianin Pinks and C Leady Phenocicks bit 7 Sevens (Warnington) and J Lamb (Wats Wits) at 1.5th.

Clid Gouses Second robust 1 Nemp and M Witco (Lorin O' Gaunto) bit 1. Wahars (Chewn) and R Ferredox (Bogor Peges) 3 and 1.1 M Roberts and 1 Campbell (Summigtable) bit J Donaldson (Maccinstell) and N Euros (Prescution) 5 and 3.1 M, Sodfrey and 5 Dragman (98 Enotice) bit 1. Febring and M Deal (Enferth) 3 and 1.5 Vale (Whitepeger) and P Serath (Neutricity) bit 8 Lewis (Summigtable) and A Rosenfeld (Highestell J and 3.7 Creak and 0 Ning (Printer Hearth In I.4 Waldman (Bruggle Vasrt) and D Bumbale (Wingstell J and 2.7 Creak and 0 Ning (Printer Hearth In I.4 Waldman (Bruggle Vasrt) and D Bumbale (Wingstell J and 2.2 and 1.1 Rees, Buryl) and 0 Machinen (Flerinson) bit 1. Peril 1. Per

and Campbel 2 and 1; Vale and Sman bi God-frey and Chapman two holes, Palmer and Walm-sley bit Burke and Brant 3 and 2; Reby and Machanion bit Chais and hing at 19th; Shemman and Page at Parker and Thompson 3 and 2; James and Rodgers bit Hammelon and Dohery 4 and 3. LDNGSHUT FRO-Mal Sain Lancimo, Algerrea, Port Socond round: 139 C Green (Gentodger 67 72; \$42.1 Sarey (Drigothel 73 69; M Belsham Mushra Partischem 170.12; N Brown (Mid Herrs) 71.7 L 43.8 R Delatina (Barssed Downs 12 71. 145 G Ritche (Lausannel 70 75; W Longitum (Storey Hill 55; 14.7 f Clark (Hageley 7 77 To. Yasam; 259) Longmus; 271. Ritcher; 274 Belstrein.

POCKETY

BOLDEN JUBILEE TOURNAMENT (Karach):
England O Netherlands 6. Standings: 1 Netherlands (P3. pts.1): 2 Germany (2-6): 3 Pakestan (2-2): 4 England (3-1): 5 Australa (2-0).

RTEIN-SERVICES TOURNAMENT (Portsmouth):
RN 3 RAF 5; RN Venedas 1 RAF Veterans 2: RN Venedas 2: RAF Women 1 Army Women 5.

ICO ROCKEY

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD (World Championship Pool B, Poland, 22-23. April): Notwarders: 8

Morrison (Gen. S Feeter Niversity): Colorat. S

Lyas Contril Devict. Darienders: R Struchan (Bosapanie Boon). M Blabop Micro Myston Partners).

S Hope Contril, O Burden (Gen. P Nitzon (New Costie). P Thompson (Galorid Farner). D

Mandom (Postely Projects). Forwarders S Moorle.

I Cooper. D McGreen (all Contril). K Commy, R

Little, P Soott, Mery Priest (all Basingstout). N

Morgian, P Adep from Notrongsont, G Garden

(Gen.) M Diller, D Longstont. T Granston (all

Sherhold Streters).

ice skating 

Rugby Union Scotton Tour of Southern Africa: 17 June / Zerbstow (Harare); 20 June / Tonarea Uniarresting: 25 June + Earten Tiersead (Bathern 27 June + Northern Tiersead (Percora); 2 July + South Eastern Tiersead (Percora); 2 July + South Eastern Tiersead (Netspan); 4 July y Eastern Province (Port Eleabeth);

ras tumer in Anel has taken a com-manding lead in the eight-strong Clip-per '9B round the world race after winning the leg from Yokohama to Shanghai. Second overall is Mermerus, with Teeping third.

Mike Golding's Group 4 is in a good position to control the BT Challenge likes as the beadts for the herritiseth (stands

as he heads for the harguetan Islands on the fourth leg from Sydney to Cape Town. Second is Chris Tibbs in Concert. with Simon Walker third in Toshibs.

BRITISH LAND INVERNATIONAL TEAM SLALOM CHAMPIONISTEP (Tignes, Fr.: 1 Avyris It 2 Creat Britain B vs. Robertson, M. Reite, F. \*Locket, J. Modder-Brown); 3 Great Britain A It Carrich-Anderson, A Freshweler, A Barren, R. Green.

Tennis ST PETERBURG MEN'S OPEN Singles, occ-and round: A Clement (Fr. b) G Passocko (GS)

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listed half-back, Tony Smith.

Puskas putsch

EUROPEAN CUP QUARTER-FINALS: English champions advance to face Borussia Dortmund without picking up any bookings

# Porto snuffed out by Schmeichel

**GLENN MOORE** 

Manchester United Man Utd win 4-0 on aggregate

After the glory, the grit, Hav-ing delighted their own supporters with a display attacking brilliance at Old Trafford a formight ago. Manches-ter United last night frustrated those of Porto with one of defensive solidity.

Having survived an early scare, the four-goal first-leg advantage was comfortably maintained. United thus moved confidently into a European Cup semi-final against Germany's Borussia Dortmund. who saw off the challenge of Auxerre with a 1-0 victory in France to complete an em-

phatic 4-1 aggregate win.
It is the first time United have reached the last four of Europe's most prestigious and lucrative club competition since 1969 when they lost, on away goals, to Milan. It also was the first time any English club have reached this stage since Liver-

David May was United's outstandiog player last oight, making one particularly crucial early tackle, but there were also fine performances from Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister and Roy Keane.

Porto had made six changes from the first leg, three of them enforced through suspension. Henrique Hilario, the goalkeeper who had been so inept in the 44) defeat at Old Trafford. was among those dropped - he was not even on the substitutes' hench. United made just two changes: Keane and Nicky Butt both returned from injury, al-lowing Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole to rest their respective thigh and humstring strains.

United were roared on by a near-1/1000 hank of red-shirted supporters who occupied a whole end of the cavernous natural bowl of Estadio das Antas. Unfortunately some 20 supporters were slightly injured. with three taken to hospital, outside the ground before the match. The problems grose due at the turnst exacerbated by ticketless fans trying to gain entrance.

In the second minute Rui Jorge's cross from the left eluded Pallister and Jardel brought a fine save from Schmeichel with a flying header. Two min-

mo pla bor



Manchester United's Nicky Butt tangles with the Porto defence during last night's European Cup quarter-final tie in Portugal

utes later the goalkeeper should have been heaten: Ljuhinko Drulovic's pass to Edmilson sprang the offside trap and, with Jardel in support, the Brazilian advacced on Schmeichel. A goal seemed certain hut Edmilson delayed his pass loog enough for May to get back and block Jardel's shot.

settle United, who gave the hall away with great frequency. With both David Beckham and Butt naturally drawn into the ceotre, Porto found space on the flanks. Such was the speed and quality of their passes on a and Cantona combined to win

bowling-greeo pitch, they also prospered through the centre. Barroso and Paulinho Santos shot over from distance while Rui Jorge did the same from

worryingly closer. United had not even entered the Porto area at this point but. after 21 minutes. Beckham was fouled by Edmilson from just far to shoot but the England midfielder lined himself up and struck the har with a wickedly curving shot.

United now came into the game: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

a corner, then the Norwegian dribbled past two players and shot just wide.

Porto continued to threaten, however, and Jardel wasted an excellent chance by shooting well wide from 10 yards after Rui Jorge had put him through. Porto's profligacy was underlined by the half-time sta-

tistics, which showed they had had one shot on target and 10 off. United had had one of each. Those figures presumably counted Beekham's shot against the har as being on target. Two

closer, troubling Andrzej

ter bursting through two tack-United stood firm, with Gary Neville and May both making a couple of excellent intervenminutes after the break he went tions with head and boot. The

Wozniak with a 25-yard drive. This was an isolated effort as Porto, now attacking their own fans, exerted further pressure in an attempt to force the breakthrough they so desperately tiooed to collect it. craved. It nearly came after 51

theo the same player brought a good save from Schmeichel af-

minutes when Edmilson head-

ed over from a good position,

frustrated Jardel, who was

SIMON TURNBULL

Middlesbrough Blackburn Rovers

growing more petulant by the minute, eventually managed a shot on target. It was an extravagant attempt, a well-executed overhead kick, but Schmeichel was perfectly posi-

Beckham continued to be United's main threat and Rui Jorge was booked for hauling him back after Cantona's chip had released him from the halfway line. With 20 minutes left, United introduced Paul Scholes and, had Keane found him well placed five minutes later, he could have opened the

Porto's frustration was summed up when Edmilson beaded a clear chance straight at Schmerchel with five minutes to go. He fell to the ground in

despair while the Porto fans,

now leaving in their hundreds,

threw their arms up in con-

#### Ricken wrecks **Auxerre** hopes

NICHOLAS HARLING

Borussia Dortmund B Dortmund win 4-1 on age

Looking far more like a side that might frustrate Manchester United than bewitch them with extravagant attacking skills, Borussia Dominiod last night secured a place in the European Cup semi-brials against Alex

Ferguson's men next month.

There were enough fittery moments in the German champions defence either side of Lars Ricken's goal on the hour in the quarter final second leg in the Abbé-Deschamps stadium for Ferguson to take heart. The shattering 4-1 defeat suffered at Stuttgart last Sat-

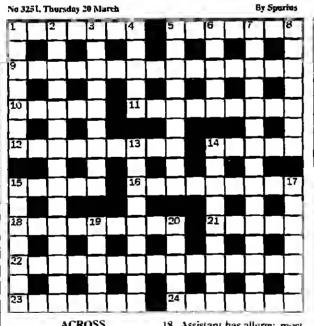
urday clearly bad an unsettling effect on the Dortmand defence and it was not until midway through the first half that they began to display anything like their familiar composure. Antoine Sibierski's shot for

Anzerre was deflected uncom-fortably close to Stefan Klos's goal and, with a better connec-tion from the lively Bernard Diomètie's corner, Alain Goma would surely have scored.

Philippe Violeau slipped his shot just wide as Auserre, serviced throughout by Franck Silvestre as playmaker, maintained the pressure. Having resisted the best the French champions could offer, which fell some way short of an onslaught, Dortmund eventually came forward. Stephane Cha-puisat and Karlheinz Riedle had largely been isolated figures up front but it was when they combined that they at last threatened. The Swiss international curied over a free kick which Riedle met with a down-

ward header. Dortunnd had long since appeared to settle for a goalless draw when Ricken scored with the help of a deflection after Chapuisat had expertly laid back lorg Heinrich's low cross.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- trish vehicle driver through North America to 5 A church member, for example, interrupting Sergeant Major's mocking language (7)
- 9 Where some rub shoulders, etc! (7.8) 10 Embarrassed about home? It's like a new pin (5)
- ultimately unreliable (9) 12 Plant comparatively late opening, fun when cultivat- 1 ed inside (9) 14 Fear daughter understood
- 15 Bits of glass ordinarily re-16 College is to change, ac-

cepting graduates (4.5)

- ly is unwell (9) Canyon where gunslinger's originally found covered in blood (5) 22 Elite relocating, possibly between Worcester and Lincoln: (15) 23 Biblical scholar, say, resid-
- ing in Oxford college most-Pope wanting lamppost at first to be set in concrete
- About one, head gets me to come in retribution? (7) First-round elimioator?
- In the morning, foolish artist's turned up with flow-Arab woman seen in stadi-

- - Tin article carried by race-
- On song for team race (5) Diversion by way of this passage? (9,6)
- Dies tragically in sea off traly foul play? (7) We'll have to stand up holding decoration - it's boring (9) Rabble-rouser expected to
- hold them in a state of eager excitement? (91 15 Moderating one's speed will result in scorn (7)
  After religious education.
- turn once more (2-5) Material used for trouser (gent's) (5) 20 Bluish colour – you'll see it in take in France (5)

English lecturer's to re-

#### Seaman ready for **England**

David Seaman is set to be named today in England's squad for the friendly with Mexico on 29 March at Wemhley, having recovered from the injury which kept him out of the World Cup tie with Italy last month, writes Glenn Moore.

Seaman resumed training on Tuesday and should prove his fitness for Arsenal against Liverpool on Monday night, be-fore joining the England squad at Bisham Abbey on Tuesday. Seaman's recovery means

Nigel Martyn's hopes of a return to the England team after four years could be dashed. Martyn has been in superb form this year and was watched by Ray Clemence. England's goalkeeping advisor, on Saturday. However, with David James in uncertain form, Martyn could be part of the squad in place of the Liverpool goal-

Also recovered is Teddy Sheringham, who is likely to form a striking partnership with Robbie Fowler although the England coach. Gleon Hoddle, will have to find a place for Matt Le Tissier if he is to be consistent. With Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand both injured, there is the outside prospect of a recall for Andy Cole, who has flour-ished since his return to the Manchester United side. Another possible oew face for the Easter Saturday friendly is Wimhledon's Robbie Earle.

Middleshrough may yet be able to afford the luxury of losing the fixture that has long loomed albatross-like on their horizon. If the genial Juninho keeps conjuring his mesmerising brand of Brazilian magic, against Chelsea on Saturday and Nottingham Forest on Mooday, Boro will surely have the comfort of another six home points before they face the Premier League appeals panel at Lancaster Gate next

non-attendance at Blackburn in December, Bryan Rohson's team not only turned up at the Riverside last night but made Rovers feel their presence with a victory that takes lifts them off the foot of the table. Chris Sutton's 68th-minute header was not enough to overcome the damage done by Juninho with his impudent first-half finish and with the guile which created Fabrizio Ravanelli's 26th goal of the season - slotted through the legs of Tim Flowers - on the

The Blackburn fans wasted no time in enquiring: "Where were you at Ewood Park?" And the presence of the Middleshrough defence was questionable in the ninth minute, when unmarked Kevin Gallacher, who astonishingly steered his shot wide. His great-grandfather was doubtless turning in his grave; Patsy Gallacher, the Celtic all-time great, once scored in the Scottish Cup final by wedging the ball between both feet and vaulting into the net, over the prostrate defenders and goalkeeper who barred his path.

It was a mighty let-off for Middlesbrough, who struggled to make headway through the tight opposition ranks. Clayton Blackmore rattled Tim Flowers' crossbar with a long-range ef-fort, but it was not until half-

Juninho has Boro jumping again

Jason Wilcox was granted an unopposed passage into the box before squaring the ball to the stranglehold exercised by Colin Hendry and his defence. First Ravanelli hlazed wide

from the edge of the area. Then, two minutes before the interval. Juninho struck on the counter-attack, combining on a right-wing raid with Ra-vanelli and Phil Stamp before clipping his scoring shot impudently over the advancing Flowers.

### Sheringham makes late point

WYN GRIFFITHS

Leicester City Tottenbam Hotspur

Leicester, in their last home match before they travel to Wembley for the Coca-Cola Cup final against Middlesbrough on 6 April, were close to an approprintely sparkling send-off when Teddy Sheringham's last-gasp goal snuffed out the celebrations

at Filbert Street last night. Sheringham, who had failed to score in the previous three

minute after Leicester appeared to be heading to victory through Steve Claridge's 74-minute goal. Leicester managed to threaten the Spurs goal only once in the opening 45 minutes when

Emile Heskey's low drive was saved by Ian Walker. Tottenham appeared the more lively and Sheringham

sparked the game into life in the 21st minute. After latching on to a pass from Steffen Iversen. Sheringham beat Leicester's stand-in keeper, Kevin Poole, with a left-footed drive, but his

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effort hit the inside of a post and turned a Neil Lennon cross bounced back along the goal-

Thereafter Tottenham also struggled to find fluency. In a campaign undermined by injury. David Howells became the latest casualty in the 38th minute when he was taken off on a stretcher after a leg injury following a collision with Muzzy

The second half began in marked contrast to the torpor of the opening spell, with Leicester making an immediate impression. First Steve Guppy

past a post. Then Claridge was narrowly wide with a specula tive long-range effort after he had spotted Walker off his line. Tottenham's swiftly countered. Poole twice came to his side's rescue as he blocked a

shot from substitute Jason Dozzell and kept out a fierce effort at the far post from Iversen. Again Sheringham found space, but directed his header from Andy Sinton's cross a yard

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